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Minister intervenes to put Holodomor section on hold

UCC – APC protests misleading new Grade 11 text and reiterates demand for consultation

(UkrNews)—Quick action by Alberta Education Minister Dave Hancock on June 6 prevented an incomplete and misleading section on the Holodomor, which was included in *Perspectives on Nationalism*, a brand new text designed for the Alberta 20-1 Social Studies course, from going to print after the Ukrainian Canadian Congress — Alberta Provincial Council protested it as misleading.

Instead it will be rewritten during June to reflect many of the issues presented by UCC – APC, which will be consulted before the final version goes to print.

Marco Levytsky, Chair of UCC – APC's Holodomor Committee received the text of Chapter Nine of the new text from a teacher, June 4 and found that it concentrated only on the collectivization aspect of the Holodomor.

He contacted Corinne Sperling, Resources Manager for the Learning and Teaching Branch of Alberta Education, to point out that by concentrating solely on collectivization and ignoring the national aspect of the Holodomor — namely the attempted genocide against the people of Ukraine, the text would be presenting a misleading picture of what truly happened.

He was told it was too late to change the text but could still submit a brief paragraph on the national aspect of the Holodomor to be included in a teachers guide along with suggested websites.

Sperling also said she had passed on UCC – APC's request to be consulted before the final version went to press to the publisher, Oxford University Press, Canada, but the decision whether to do so was left to the publisher.

He prepared one that evening and sent it in the following day.

Among the points made were that food was readily available in Russia, but the borders were closed so that Ukrainian peasants could not get in and obtain it. The Holodomor was coupled with massive arrests and executions of the Ukrainian political and intellectual leadership, the destruction of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church and the abandonment of the 1920's policy of Ukrainization with the Stalinist policy of Russification.

After consultations, the committee decided additions to the teacher's guide were not sufficient and that UCC - APC President Daria Luciw should ask for the textbook itself to be prevented from going to print until the necessary changes were made.

A letter was prepared which Luciw signed and sent by e-mail to Hancock with copies to Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach and several Ukrainian-origin ministers and MLAs. (See Page 6)

When Aboriginal Affairs Minister Gene Zwozdesky, who is drafting the Alberta Government's Holodomor Bill, was informed that such a letter was forthcoming he told UCC – APC that it required immediate attention and the only way to ensure that was for him to give it to Hancock personally.

Zwozdesky ensured that Hancock got it the next morning, Hancock reacted immediately and Alberta Education officials called UCC – APC to inform them the book had not yet gone to print and the Holodomor section would be rewritten with the consultation of UCC - APC.

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Canada

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Yushchenko gets rousing reception from Toronto's Ukrainian community

President Yushchenko walks into his meeting with the Ukrainian community in Toronto.

Pointing to his country's emerging agriculture sector, steady economic growth and recent ascension into the World Trade Organization, Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko called on Canadian business leaders May 28 to pump more investment into Europe's "breadbasket," reports the Canadian Press.

Yushchenko also announced that Ukraine's Ministry of Fuels and Energy has signed a memorandum of understanding with Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. to study CANDU nuclear technology.

"This is great news, it's a great work plan," Yushchenko told a business gathering in Toronto.

The agreement begins with a four-month feasibility study and comes as Ukraine looks to diminish its reliance upon Russian energy reserves, which Moscow has wielded as a political tool.

During a luncheon speech to the Economic Club of

Cont. on Page 3

Ющенко задоволений підсумками Державного візиту до Канади

(Пресова служба Президента України)—«Переконаний, після візиту ми стали ще більшими друзями з представниками української діаспори, урядовими колами, де ми наповнили новим змістом статус особливого партнерства», - сказав Віктор Ющенко в інтерв'ю 28 травня в Торонто.

Президент підкреслив, що Канада для України - партнер, який на міжнародному рівні всіляко підтримує українські зусилля з інтеграції до світових структур.

Серед важливих досягнень візиту Віктор Ющенко зокрема назвав підписання між Україною та Канадою Меморандуму щодо співробітництва у сфері ядерної енергетики. «Нас єднає ціла низка інтересів у сфері енергетики, зокрема, найглобальніше питання - на найближчі 15 років у рамках національної енергетичної стратегії використання в українській ядерній енергетиці канадської технології», - сказав Ющенко.

На його переконання, Україна може «значно підвищити рівень національної енергетичної незалежності, якщо візьме на озброєння канадську ядерну технологію виробництва електроенергії». «Те, що сьогодні був підписаний документ, говорить, що ми знайшли основу стратегічного партнерства у цій сфері», - наголосив Ющенко.

Президент також відзначив значний потенціал українсько-канадської співпраці у питаннях залучення в Україну інвестицій у проекти, пов'язані з АПК, зв'язком, суднобудуванням тощо.

За його словами, особливої уваги під час візиту було надано обговоренню гуманітарної сфери нашої співпраці, насамперед, забезпечення освітніх та культурних потреб української громади в Канаді. Також йшлося про те, як Конгрес українців Канади та ще понад 20 громадських організацій можуть

Прод на ст. 2

Президент Віктор Ющенко із дружиною Катериною перед пам'ятником жертв Голодомору у Вінніпегу.

Ющенко задоволений підсумками

Прод із ст. 1

залучатися до програм із поширення української мови.

Віктор Ющенко особливо наголосив, що значну увагу сторони приділили питанню визнання Голодомору геноцидом. Він оцінив як «виключно конструктивні» свої переговори із даного питання з Прем'єр-міністром Канади С. Гарпером. «Я думаю, мені вдалося донести Прем'єр-міністрові та партіям більшості і меншості (парламенту Канади), чому для України є принциповим визнання нижньою палатою парламенту Канади Голодомору актом геноциду», - додав Президент.

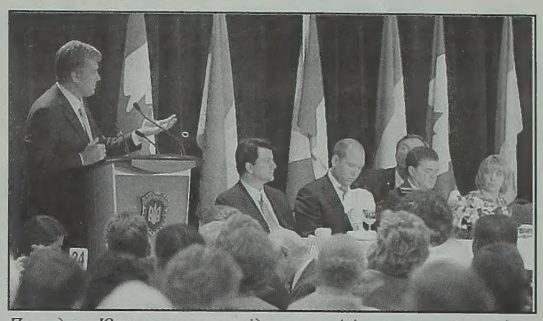
Він високо оцінив рішення, прийняте з цього приводу вчора Палатою громад канадського парламенту. «Це блискуча перемога», - підкреслив він, додавши що тепер залишилося цьому рішенню пройти через формальні процедури у сенаті. «Ні в кого немає сумніву, що це рішення буде у найближчі один-два дні і воно буде виключно позитивним. Таким чином ми проробили і завершили реалізацію на рівні законодавчого акту Канади засудження Голодомору 1932-32 рр. як геноциду українського народу», - сказав Віктор Ющенко.

За його словами, під час візиту сторони також акцентували увагу на темі відзначення 75-річниці Голодомору в Україні. Йшлося зокрема про залучення до участі у відповідних заходах української громади Канади. «Це хороший план співпраці і на державному, і на громадському рівнях», - переконаний Президент.

Україна прагне розширювати контакти з діаспорою Канади, каже Ющенко

(Пресова служба Президента України)—У червні 2008 року Україна планує відкрити Генеральне консульство в канадському місті Едмонтон. Про це повідомив Президент України Віктор Ющенко 28 травня під час зустрічі з українською діаспорою в Торонто.

У своєму виступі Глава держави наголосив, що Україна прагне розширювати контакти і співпрацю з українською діаспорою Канади. Зокрема, це можливо зробити і завдяки реалізації ряду культурних та гуманітарних проектів.



Президент Ющенко говорить під час зустрічі з української громадою Торонта.

Окремої уваги в цьому контексті Віктор Ющенко надав відзначенню в листопаді 2008 року 75-ї річниці Голодомору 1932-33 рр. За словами Президента, в рамках відзначення цієї дати планується, зокрема, проведення кінофестивалю, до підготовки якого він запросив українську діаспору. «Я звертаюся до громадських організацій Канади: нам потрібно сформувати спільну групу, яка почала б опрацьовувати те, як міг виглядати цей фестиваль», - сказав В. Ющенко.

Президент звернув увагу на важливість передачі для ознайомлення в українські школи, бібліотеки, на телебачення, в армійські підрозділи - всюди, де проживають українці - доробку, присвяченого темі Голодомору. «Це велика справа, і я просив би, щоб ми це мали на увазі в плані спільних дій», - підкреслив Президент.

Він також запросив канадських українців долучитися до участі у книжкових виставках та ярмарках, що заплановані у рамках відзначення 75-ї річниці Великого голоду.

Крім того, за його словами, українська сторона очікує від української громади в Канаді формування до листопада реєстру жертв та свідків Голодомору та передачі його Україні. «Це повинен бути публічний акт передачі», - вважає В. Ющенко.

Президент України також повідомив, що вже затверджений художній ескіз та проект національного пам'ятника, який би вшанував пам'ять жертв Голодомору. Звертаючись до українців Канади, Віктор Ющенко запропонував їм, як і іншим українцям, які проживають на інших континентах, подарувати для меморіальної частини цього пам'ятника свій монумент, присвячений жертвам Голодомору. «Просимо вас допомогти нам розширити цю ініціативу», - сказав Президент.

Глава держави, крім цього, попросив українських канадців передавати експонати до Музею гетьманства, що має відкритися в Батурині до 300-річчя оборони цього міста.

Говорячи про гуманітарні проекти, де можуть співпрацювати Україна та українська громада Канади, Президент назвав можливість залучення молодих канадських українців до роботи вихователями у міжнародному таборі «Артек», де цього літа відбуватиметься, зокрема, Міжнародний фестиваль «Змінимо світ на краще». «Це була б хороша гуманітарна акція», - сказав Ющенко.

У своєму виступі на зустрічі Глава держави розповів про сучасну ситуацію в Україні. Також Президент порушив тему щодо європейського та євроатлантичного курсу нашої держави. Він наголосив, що сподівається на отримання Україною у грудні цього року позитивного рішення щодо її приєднання до ПДЧ.

У контексті теми інтеграції України до ЄС В. Ющенко наголосив, що цього року на порядку денному нашої держави стоїть два найважливіші питання: закріплення у новій посиленій угоді Україна - ЄС політичної асоціації нашої країни та переговори щодо створення зони вільної торгівлі з Євросоюзом.

Наприкінці зустрічі Глава Української держави вручив представникам української громади Канади державні нагороди.

На зустрічі також була присутня дружина Президента України пані Катерина Ющенко.

Кандці що отримали державні нагороди

Указ Президента України

За вагомий особистий внесок у розвиток українсько-канадських відносин, активну діяльність у гуманітарній сфері, активну участь у житті української громади Канади постановляю:

Нагородити орденом "За заслуги" III ступеня

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Петра КУЛІЯ – мецената, громадського діяча

Ярослава СОКОЛИКА – громадського діяча

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Маршу Форчук СКРИПИК – письменницю

Медаллю "За працю і звитягу"

Юлію КРЕХОВЕЦЬКУ - волонтера програми "Допоможи нам допомогти дітям" Канадського фонду "Дітям Чорнобиля"

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Емілію СТЕЛЬМАХ - волонтера програми "Допоможи нам допомогти дітям" Канадського фонду "Дітям Чорнобиля"

Івана МАЗУРЕНКА – громадського діяча

Віктор ЮЩЕНКО

Провідництво СКУ зустрілося ш Призидентом України

(СКУ)—28 травня у Торонто відбулася зустріч провідників української діаспори з Президентом України, достойним Віктором Ющенком, який прибув до Канади з офіційним візитом.

Від Світового Конгресу Українців (СКУ) у зустрічі взяли участь Евген Чолій, перший заступник президента, Марія Шкамбара, 2-ий заступник президента та Віктор Педенко, генеральний секретар.

Делегацію Світового Конгресу Українців очолив Евген Чолій, 1-ий заступник президента СКУ, який привітав Президента від імені української діаспори, після чого зачитав залучений лист-меморандум, у якому викладено такі питання:

- відзначення Голодомору-Геноциду 1932-33 рр. в Україні;
- вцілення законодавства про українську мову як державну;
- надання звання Героя України Євгену Коновальцю;
- необхідність відсічі останнім агресивним виявам колишнього президента Росії В. Путіна і Міністра закордонних справ С. Лаврова;
- захист української національної меншини в деяких країнах діаспори.

Крім того він заторкнув питання про сучасні події в Україні. Під час зустрічі Президент України запевнив, що пам'ятник-свічку жертвам Голодомору буде споруджено вчасно до завершального вшанування жертв Голодомору-Геноциду 1932-33 рр. у листопаді ц.р.

У зустрічі також взяли участь пердставники Конгресу Українців Канади (див. ст. 3).

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Yushchenko gets rousing reception from Toronto's Ukrainian community

Cont.from Page 1

Toronto at a downtown hotel, Yushchenko also outlined his government's efforts to slash bureaucracy and open Ukraine's economy to make it a "one-stop shop" for foreign investment.

"If we were to talk about overall economic stability, Ukraine has it," he said.

As world food prices continue to spike, Ukraine's vast areas of arable land offer "astonishing opportunities" for investors, he added, noting the country is celebrating record employment levels and created roughly one million new jobs last year.

Earlier this month, the Ukrainian government predicted this year would see a grain harvest of about 40 million tonnes, with 13 million of those earmarked for export.

Yushchenko said that while some socialist tendencies continue to hamper growth, the country has made great strides towards a free-market model.

"If we're aware of the problems, we'll cure them," he said.

Ukraine recently announced it would lift a two-year ban on exporting grain, and Yushchenko said this year marks the first time all arable land in the country will be privately owned.

He added Ukraine's economic growth in the first quarter, though down from previous years, still sits at a robust six per cent.

"We want to live like the rest of Europe," said Yushchenko, referring to his country's desire to live in a free and democratic society.

He said many Ukrainians now look favourably to the West, with recent polls showing a growing number of Ukrainians support a push to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Yushchenko said that three years ago, only 17 per cent of Ukrainians supported joining NATO, but last month, that number has climbed to about 35 per cent.

"We see it as a matter of time," he said, referring to his country's move toward the European economic and political sphere.

Yushchenko, who spent his last day in Canada in Toronto, received a rousing reception during a meeting earlier in the day with members of the city's Ukrainian community.

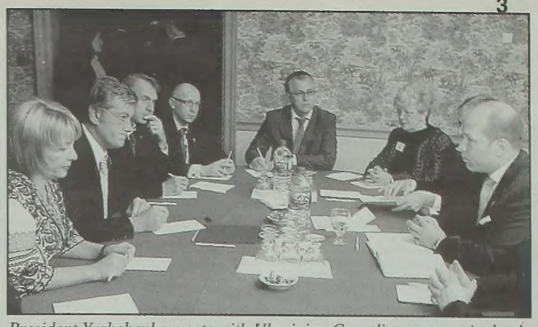
Fans seeking autographs and photos of the charismatic leader gathered in front of a westside club, and he didn't disappoint.

Yushchenko, famed for leading his country's so-called "Orange Revolution" more than three years ago, stopped his motorcade and stepped out of a black limousine to greet several dozen well-wishers.

Yushchenko also delivered a speech to hundreds of Ukrainian Canadians and was praised by federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty for his country's democratic progress over the past 17 years.

During his Toronto visit, Yushchenko, a Ukrainian history and culture buff, visited a Royal Ontario Museum exhibit, slated to open in the fall, featuring the country's ancient Trypillian culture.

Yushchenko said that after decades of Soviet rule, Ukraine must ensure its future security with membership in NATO and the European Union. He praised Canada for its support for his country's efforts to move closer to the West.



President Yushchenko meets with Ukrainian Canadian community leaders May 28 in Toronto.

UCC meets with Yushchenko to discuss new relationship

(UCC National)—May 28, 2008 leaders of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), met with the President of Ukraine, Victor Yushchenko. Representatives of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), the Canada Ukraine Foundation (CUF) and the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO) also participated in the meeting, which took place in Toronto as part of the state visit of President Yushchenko to Canada.

On behalf of the Ukrainian Canadian community, UCC President Paul Grod greeted Yushchenko. Grod acknowledged the importance of the current state visit to the development of Canada Ukraine bilateral relations.

In his presentation to the President, Grod touched on several issues relating to further cooperation between the Ukrainian government and the UCC, including:

- The need for regular consultation on joint initiatives;
- Coordination and planning of events involving the Ukrainian Canadian community and visiting Ukrainian government officials as well as the awarding of Ukrainian national honours to Ukrainian Canadian community leaders;
- Coordinating projects in the fields of education, culture, charity and social policy as well as economic activity; and
- Ukrainian government support for the preserving of the Ukrainian language and culture in Canada including support for internships, exchanges and summer youth programs.

"Our objective is to further develop mutually beneficial relations between Canada and Ukraine. The Ukrainian Canadian community has much to offer in the strengthening of these relations. We are pleased that the President of Ukraine understands the positive role that the community has played in facilitating a special partnership between our two countries. Additionally, President Yushchenko has a good understanding of how Ukraine can help our community here maintain and develop its Ukrainian Canadian heritage," stated Grod after the meeting.

Grod went on to say that the outpouring of welcome for Yushchenko from ordinary Canadians has been remarkable. "President Yushchenko has been an exceptional symbol of the new Ukraine. UCC looks forward to working with his administration and the government of Canada to support Ukraine's integration into the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty8Ørganization."

Others in the community delegation included UCC Vice Presidents Alexandra Chyczij (Toronto) and Daria Luciw (Edmonton), CUF President Bohdan Onyschuk QC, UCC Toronto President Markian Shwec, UWC 1st Vice President Eugene Czolij (Montreal), UWC General Secretary Victor Pedenko (London, ON), and WFUWO President Mary Szkambara (Toronto).

Edmonton awardees: Standing Left to Right: Dr. Radomir Bilash, Dr. Doris Kule, Dr. Bohdan Medwidsky, Andrew Hladyshevsky, QC. Sitting: Dr. Peter Kule.

Yushchenko honours Shevchenko Foundation President

(Shevchenko Foundation)—May 28 during the community breakfast meeting, Shevchenko Foundation President Andrew Hladyshevsky Q.C. received the Order of Merit from the President of Ukraine, Victor Yushchenko.

(For a full list of all the awardees and the Ukrainian-langue text of the Presidential Decree, see Page 2.)

The Order For Merit is awarded to citizens of Ukraine and foreign countries for distinguished personal achievements in economic, scientific, technological, cultural, military, state, public and other spheres of social activities.

The Order for Merit originates from the Honorary Award of the President of Ukraine, the first decoration of independent Ukraine instituted on August 18, 1992.

"As a loyal son of Lydia and Myroslav Hladyshevsky, I humbly accept this award on their behalf for their countless hours of contribution to the Ukrainian Canadian community. It is an honour that the President of Ukraine views the work of the Shevchenko Foundation, with such high esteem, and the award is gratefully shared amongst all of those that participate in the vision of the Shevchenko Foundation. I wish to express sincere thanks to all of those volunteers that assisted me over the years and specifically thank the support of my wife Daria and my family for allowing me to promote the works of the Shevchenko Foundation over these past years." said Andrew Hladyshevsky Q.C.

The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko is a national, chartered philanthropic institution providing leadership by building and nurturing a permanent endowment fund dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the Ukrainian Canadian cultural heritage and the advancement of a flourishing Ukrainian community for the enrichment of Canada.

Correction

In the above picture, which originally ran in the May 29 – June 11 issue of Ukrainian News, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and his wife Kateryna, are greeted by Vic Toews, former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, now president of the Treasury Board.

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Самогубства і катування стали звичним явищем у в'язницях

(УНІАН)—Останнім часом масово стала надходити інформація про жорстокі порушення прав засуджених у місцях позбавлення волі, а протягом десяти останніх днів в Україні четверо засуджених позбавили себе життя.

Про це йдеться у повідомленні Вінницької правозахисної групи, текст якого є у розпорядженні УНІАН.

Так, за останню добу (до 9 червня) до Вінницької правозахисної групи надійшла інформація про масові побиття засуджених в Стрижавській виправній колонії №81 та у Темнівській виправній колонії №100 (Харківська область).

Відповідно до інформації, яка є в розпорядженні ВПГ, 7-8 червня співробітниками Стрижавської ВК №81 було жорстоко побито трьох засуджених. "На тілах засуджених є сліди від побоїв, тому адміністрація колонії робить усе для того, аби не допустити для зустрічі з ними пресу та правозахисників", повідомляє ВПГ.

За інформацією правозахисників, причиною побиття є "незгода засуджених із жорстоким приниженням людської гідності з боку адміністрації колонії та попередження з боку засуджених про те, що вони вдаватимуться до акцій мирного протесту проти принижень".

За повідомленням ВПГ, в ізоляторі колонії №100 перебуває понад 60 осіб, 7 червня катувань зазнали четверо засуджених. "Серед методів катування, які застосовуються до засуджених, - побиття, замотування рук і ніг у вологі рушники, що викликає важкий біль після висихання рушників, «розтяжка», прив'язування до батареї наручниками», йдеться у повідомленні.

Правозахисники звертаються до Уповноваженого Верховної Ради України з прав людини Ніни Карпачової з проханням відвідати колонії №100 та №81 і зустрітися із засудженими, які, згідно з повідомленнями, були піддані тортурам.

СБУ викликала до Генпрокуратури особистого лікаря Ющенка

(УНІАН)—10 червня, до Генеральної прокуратури України для надання свідчень у справі отруєння Президента України Віктора Ющенка наприкінці 2004 року викликана колишній особистий лікар-дерматолог голови держави, доктор медичних наук, професор Ольга Богомолець.

Як повідомив прес-секретар Богомолец Євген Дяченко, Богомолец була лікуючим лікарем В.Ющенка після його отруєння, впродовж 2004-2005 років, пише *ЛІГА*.

За словами прес-секретаря, повістка слідчого Генпрокуратури була передана в Клініку лазерної медицини доктора Богомолець співробітниками Служби безпеки України. "Дивно, але до Генпрокуратури Ольгу Богомолець у цій справі викликали вперше", - додав Дяченко.

Нагадаємо, В.Ющенко відчув різке погіршення здоров'я у вересні 2004 року під час президентської кампанії. Він був госпіталізований в австрійську клініку, де було встановлено, що в його організмі присутній діоксин.

Раніше народний депутат від НУНС Давид Жванія заявляв, що хвороба кандидата в Президенти України Ющенка є наслідком звичайного харчового отруєння. "Моя думка, що він не був отруєний. По-перше, якщо це робили спецслужби, то вони мали б це робити професійніше, - заявляв депутат.

Січові стрільці, що загинули в 1939 р., досі не поховані

(УНІАН)—Івано-Франківська обласна рада закликає керівництво держави а також колег із Львівської та Закарпатської облрад спорудити на Верецькому перевалі українських Карпат Пантеон слави українським Січовим стрільцям до 70-річчя Карпатської України.

Як передає кореспондент УНІАН, відповідне звернення до Президента України Віктора Ющенка, Верховної Ради і Кабінету Міністрів України, а також до Закарпатської та Львівської обласних рад було ухвалене 9 червня на засіданні сесії Івано-Франківської облради.

"Звертаємо вашу увагу, що Верецький перевал є місцем трагічних подій 1939 року, де було жорстоко замордовано українських Січових стрільців, які виступили в обороні Карпатської України проти фашизму з боку хортистської Угорщини. Серед них були наші земляки: галичани, волиняни, буковинці, закарпатці, яких досі не поховано і не вшановано по-християнськи", – йдеться у зверненні.

Так депутати підтримали заяву громадських, культурних і політичних організацій Закарпаття щодо ситуації довкола Верецького перевалу.

"До депутатів Івано-Франківської обласної ради звернулися представники громадських та культурно-просвітницьких організацій Закарпаття з приводу зведення на Верецькому перевалі пам'ятника до 1100-ліття віднайдення угорцями нової батьківщини. Поділяючи думку, що встановлення такого знаку було би доречним на кордоні двох держав, вважаємо, що в будь-якому разі він має трактуватися як символ вдячності семи угорських племен нашим далеким предкам, які пропустили їх через свою землю до Дунайської долини... Ми не заперечуємо чужої історії, але маємо право на історію власну", – зазначається в ухваленому зверненні.

Депутати Івано-Франківської облради просять тих, кому адресоване звернення, "втрутитися у ситуацію" і "з метою вшанування полеглих героїв забезпечити зведення на горі Пантеону слави українським Січовим стрільцям, які загинули, захищаючи рідну землю".

"Такий Пантеон матиме особливе значення до 70-річчя Карпатської України, яке будемо відзначати у 2009 році. Верецький перевал – це наша гордість, наш біль, наша історія. Відновити справедливість та гідно вшанувати його захисників – обов'язок усіх нас", – наголошують депутати облради.

Пам'ятник "Жертвам УПА" в Луганську не пройшов прокуратуру

(УНІАН)—Прокуратура міста Луганськ внесла протест на рішення сесії міської ради від 25 квітня про створення комісії з вивчення питання щодо можливості спорудження у Луганську пам'ятника жертвам ОУН-УПА.

Про це кореспонденту УНІАН повідомили 9 червняв Управлінні внутрішньої політики міськвиконкому.

Протест прокуратури депутати розглянуть на черговій сесії міської ради, яка відбудеться наприкінці червня.

Між тим якщо у Луганську можливість побудови пам'ятника ще лише вивчають, то у місті Сватове спорудження пам'ятного знаку вже майже завершено.

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Coalition government majority collapses in Rada

(Ukrainian Journal)—Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's slim pro-government majority in Parliament de-facto collapsed on June 6y after two of its lawmakers announced their decision to quit the coalition.

The move is a major setback for Tymoshenko, whose coalition now has support of only 225 lawmakers in the 450-seat Parliament, one less than required for approving legislation.

The development does not require Tymoshenko's immediate resignation and she is expected to continue to run the minority government.

But under certain conditions, such as a continued stalemate and inability to approve a budget, the development may force President Viktor Yushchenko to dismiss Parliament and to call an early election later this year.

Tymoshenko said June 6 she was concerned over the future of the coalition, while Yushchenko said he had believed the coalition would be able to survive.

"This is not a legal reason to talk about the collapse of the coalition," Yushchenko said June 6 in St. Petersburg while attending the Russian economic forum. "Signals for mutual understanding and for effective actions, including by the government, are extremely needed for the coalition to get the second wind."

Raisa Bohatyriova, the secretary of the National Security and Defense Council, the top security body under the president, said June 8 the president will not seek to replace Tymoshenko.

"I am convinced that the president will not interfere into the issue of the coalition," Bohatyriova said in an interview with ICTV. "This is not an issue for the president.

"Unless these issues threaten the national security, no doubt the president will give an opportunity for Parliamentary groups to do the best they can to renew stable development in the country," Bohatyriova said.

Meanwhile, Former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, the leader of the opposition Regions Party, said Friday his party had been holding talks with undisclosed groups to try to create a new coalition in Parliament.

Analysts said the groups may include Our Ukraine-People's Self-defense and the centrist group led by former Parliamentary Speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn. Both groups refused to comment.

Our Ukraine-People's Self-defense controls 72 seats and consent from at least 37 lawmakers is needed for creating the new coalition. People familiar with the situation said there were not more than 20 lawmakers ready to back the coalition with Yanukovych.

The two lawmakers that quit the coalition include Ihor Rybakov, a member of the Tymoshenko group, and Yuriy But, a member of Our Ukraine-People's Self-defense.

"Of course, this is not a surprise," Ivan Vasiunyk, deputy prime minister and a member of Our Ukraine party, said in comments over the development. "But the democratic coalition maintained and I don't see any reason for creating the grand coalition between Our Ukraine-People's Self-defense and the Regions Party."

Parliament closes major 2008 budget gap

Ukrainian Journal)—Parliament on June 3 voted to support a bill closing a major gap in the 2008 budget, averting a scenario under which the government would have been forced to drastically cut spending.

The bill, which was quickly signed into law by President Viktor Yushchenko, re-confirms much of the forecast revenue this year, two weeks after the revenue had been put into question by a Constitutional Court ruling.

The court, citing the constitution, suspended legislation detailing much of the 2008 budget revenue, arguing the legislation must be approved by a separate bill. The legislation was originally approved as part of the 2008 budget vote in December 2007, something that the court had declared illegal.

The vote allows effectively closing the budget gap, estimated by the government at 141 billion hryvnias, which compares with Ukraine's originally approved 2008 budget deficit of 18.5 billion hryvnias, or 2.1% of GDP.

"We restored the budget," Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko said after the vote in Parliament.

The bill was supported by the government's slim majority in 450-seat Parliament, temporarily easing tensions between Yushchenko and Tymoshenko.

The vote follows two months of sharp comments and even outright hostilities between the government's two groups, one loyal to Tymoshenko and another loyal to Yushchenko.

Tymoshenko said the vote had "proved" the unity of the government coalition, adding she was confident relations between the government, Parliament and the president will get back to normal.

But more importantly, the vote allows averting drastic spending cuts in the 2008 budget that would have been inevitable if Parliament had failed to approve the bill on June 3.

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Rescue teams try to find 12 coal miners

(Ukrainian Journal)—As of June 11 rescue teams were still trying to find 12 coal miners that had been trapped after a gas explosion at a coalmine in Ukraine June 8, but fears were growing the miners may be dead.

Twenty-four miners were brought out alive on June 9, a day after the huge explosion had rocked the Karl Marx mine in the eastern Donetsk region. The body of one man, who did not survive the blast, was also retrieved.

But there was no contact with 12 others still deep underground. At the same time fears were growing the mine could soon flood as most equipment pumping the water out had been destroyed by the blast.

"The water is rising but it is still possible to work," Marina Nikitina, a spokeswoman for the mine safety agency, told the AFP news agency.

First Deputy Prime Minister Oleksander Turchynov, who oversees the rescue operation at the accident site, said it was difficult to remain optimistic.

"I do not want to make any predictions, but I would say that the chances are minimal. But there always is hope," he said.

He said nine of the missing men had been ascending in a lift and were about 200 meters from the surface when they were hit by the blast, which sent the cage plummeting back down the shaft.

The other three, he said, were about 1,000 meters below ground, where the blast occurred.

President Viktor Yushchenko accused the government of an "irresponsible" approach to the coal industry, which is still dominated by Soviet-era technology and has suffered a series of fatal accidents recently.

"The condition of the coal mining industry is deteriorating further and the profession of coal miner is becoming extremely dangerous," a spokeswoman for the president said.

Three mine blasts in the same region late last year killed more than 100 men.

The 110-year-old Karl Marx mine in Yenakiyevo, 60km north-east of the regional capital Donetsk, had officially been closed because of safety fears.

The miners were originally reported to have been carrying out safety improvements when the explosion occurred on Sunday, but Ukraine's safety agency later said the miners had in fact been mining, defying the ban.

A spokesman said audio tapes "prove that coal-mining took place on that day", the Associated Press reported.

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Moscow warns Georgia, Ukraine over NATO

(RFE/RL)—Russia has condemned moves by Georgia and Ukraine to join NATO, saying they could have serious repercussions.

The comments came as Russian President Dmitry Medvedev met separately on June 8 with his Georgian and Ukrainian counterparts in St. Petersburg on the sidelines of an informal summit of leaders from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

According to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Medvedev warned Ukraine that it would be in breach of a friendship treaty if it joined NATO. He also said Russia plans to nearly double the price it charges Ukraine for natural gas at the start of next year.

Medvedev told Georgia's President Mikheil Saakashvili that pursuing NATO membership would hamper efforts to settle Georgia's conflicts with pro-Moscow separatists in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

"We felt [at the meeting] that President Saakashvili, indeed, wants to pay priority attention to the resolution of these conflicts," Lavrov said. "By the way, it was said — at least it seems to me that he understands — at the course toward NATO accession is not the key to a settlement."

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Українські Вісті це незалежна газета, яка сама утримується із передплат, оголошень та пожертв на пресовий фонд. Просимо підтримувати нашу газету повищими джерелами. Дякуємо заздалегідь за Вашу підтримку.

Effective representation brings effective action

The Alberta Government and especially Education Minister Dave Hancock are to be commended for reacting so quickly and decisively to stop what would have been a very misleading text about the Holodomor from going to print, thus serving to further muddy the waters on this horrible crime against humanity — and to do so in the minds of students in their formative years of education.

Aside from the fact the Holodomor wasn't even listed on a map of world genocides, while a couple of genocides whose death toll amounted to 00.1% that of the Holodomor, the main text focussed exclusively on the collectivization aspect of the Famine, while ignoring altogether the attempt to wipe Ukrainians out as a nation. Such selectivity of facts leads to a complete distortion of the true picture.

It was precisely to avoid such a situations that the Ukrainian community asked to be consulted before this text went to print. For whatever reason, the publisher chose not to. This now meant the book had to be pulled and rewritten.

Textbooks stay around for a long time, Had that text been printed, it would have meant grade 11 students in Alberta would be presented a one-sided view of the Holodomor, which would continue to obfuscate the true nature of this tragedy. What's more, with Alberta being the first province to institute Holodomor study as a formal component of its Social Studies program, any course material that's prepared here, will undoubtedly influence other education departments across Canada who may at some point decide to follow Alberta's lead. Thus it became even more imperative that this subject matter be presented properly and in its full context.

Without doubt, the most critical role in this situation was played by Aboriginal Relations Minister Gene Zwozdesky, himself a former Education Minister, who fully understands how time is of the essence in a situation like this. UCC – APC was able to reach Zwozdesky, who is always very accessible to members of our community, while finalizing the letter that was going out to Hancock. When informed about the issues and that such a letter was forthcoming, he told us that such a letter could take some time to get to Hancock if sent through regular e-mail channels, therefore had to be presented to him personally and the urgency of the matter explained. This was done and because Zwozdesky was able to get the letter into Hancock's hand immediately and explain the urgency, is why the Education Minister reacted so decisively and the situation was rectified.

Other factors that must have played a role was the fact that we do have a Premier who is of Ukrainian origin and who has made it clear that he has a special interest in seeing that the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor is marked properly. We also have a large number of both Ukrainian-origin ministers and MLAs and friends of our community who effectively represent out interests.

The reason for this is that our community has gotten deeply involved in grassroots political work and organization. This brings us effective representation — and effective representation brings us effective action.

In the meantime, the Toronto and District School Board's saga continues. The board would not change its decision to leave the Holodomor out if its core genocide curriculum at a June 2 meeting despite some very informed presentations made by members of the Ukrainian community.

Another meeting, however, was scheduled for June 12 — right about the time this issue would be sent to press. We have, therefore decided to hold our comment until after that meeting.

Nevertheless, the affair to date demonstrates the need to get some effective representation into the TDSB. We are aware of several good individuals that are interested and we are aware that the Toronto Ukrainian community can effectively pull their resources together for decisive political action when needed.

It is most needed in the TDSB and it's time to get some of our people into that body.

UCC-APC voices concerns over proposed Holodomor text

ED. Note: Below is the text of the letter delivered to Education Minister Hancock by Aboriginal Relations Minister Gene Zwozdesky on June 6,.

June 5, 2008
The Honourable Dave Hancock
Minister of Education
Via Email
Dear Minister Hancock:

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Alberta Provincial Council, the umbrella organization representing over 332,000 Albertans of Ukrainian origin, would like to commend Alberta Education in its' proactive initiative to include the 1932-33 Famine in Ukraine (Holodomor) in new high school curriculum text books being introduced this fall for Grade 11 students in Alberta.

However, this week we saw the materials going to print and were dismayed by what we read. We have very serious concerns about the content developed by Oxford University Press on the Holodomor as part of the grade 11 social studies program on ultra-nationalism and genocide. We find it woefully inadequate, appallingly superficial for that level of study, and misleading. We also believe that it diminishes the historical significance of the Famine while bolstering a political line that attempts to downgrade the Famine to an unfortunate consequence of Stalin's collectivization program, while ignoring his objective to destroy Ukrainians as a people.

First of all, the Holodomor, whose death toll is recognized as between 7 and 10 million, is totally ignored in the world map on page 189 of the textbook, which lists several genocides in a side box, and in addition separate boxes for both the Bosnian genocide (death toll: 8,000) and the Kosovar genocide (death toll: 7,000) are included. We do not intend to downplay any act of genocide in terms of numbers, but would like to point out that the omission of the Holodomor is not only glaring, but scholastically indefensible.

The two-page section on the Holodomor (which is never mentioned by name) is most innocuously titled "Focus on Ukraine: 1932-1933 and concentrates solely on the collectivization aspect of the famine, while totally ignoring the national one — namely the attempt to destroy Ukrainians as a nation.

The author of the Holodomor section notes, "As you read the following section about the famine in Ukraine, consider the relationship between ultra-nationalism and genocide", then fails to address this issue in the rest of the text. The connection could very easily have been made by including the fact that it was an attempt to destroy the Ukrainians as a people or forcibly assimilate them into the Russian culture. The other fact that should be pointed out since it falls squarely within the parameters of the course, is that Soviet "internationalism" was a euphemism for Russian ultra-nationalism, since Russian was the "international" language and culture, while all the minority languages and cultures were "bourgeois nationalist" ones.

We also find that the layout of the Ukrainian section contains much more white space than other pages — space which could be utilized to fit in more "Fast facts" which are a feature of this text. The two "Fast facts" which are included, one about collectivization and the other about the origins of the word "kulak", are repetitive of the body text and very low in importance when compared to some of the other "Fast Facts" about the Holodomor. For example:

- The Holodomor was geographically focused for political ends. It stopped precisely at the Ukrainian-Russian ethnographic border.
- The borders of Ukraine were strictly patrolled by the military to prevent starving Ukrainians from crossing into Russia in search of bread.
- The Soviet regime dumped 1.7 million tons of grain on the Western markets at the height of the Holodomor.
- At the height of the Holodomor Ukrainian villagers were dying at the rate of 25,000 per day or 1,000 per hour or 17 per minute.
- Children comprised one-third of the Holodomor victims in Ukraine. Large numbers of children were orphaned and became homeless.
- The Ukrainian population was reduced by as much as 25 percent.
- The Soviet Government refused to acknowledge to the international community the starvation in Ukraine and turned down the assistance offered by various countries and international relief organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross.

For the Record

All these facts are readily available from the resources the UCC - APC has in its files as are many other facts that could have been utilized by the publishers had they complied with our request to be consulted before this textbook went into print.

Earlier this year, on behalf of our community, I spoke with Corinne Sperling, Resources Manager for the Learning and Teaching Branch of Alberta Education, at which time I expressed our desire to ensure that the information included in this textbook be accurate. She agreed that we would have an opportunity to review draft materials for this purpose and passed along our contact information to the publisher for their follow up. This follow up never happened by the publisher and we were completely caught off guard this week to learn that in fact the writing has been completed and the textbook going to press.

As well, were very disappointed to have learned of these developments not from Alberta Education, but from teachers who have already seen copies of this material. These teachers also expressed their concern about the incredibly inaccurate development of this section in the curriculum.

When the Chair of our Provincial Holodomor Committee, Marco Levytsky, contacted Corinne Sperling, in an attempt to see what could be done to rectify the situation, he was told it was too late to change the text but could still submit a brief paragraph on the national aspect of the Holodomor to be included in a teachers guide along with suggested websites. Mr. Levytsky prepared this information and was assured by Ms. Sperling that she would see that it would be included in the teacher's notes.

However, the teaching guide is also subject to the publisher's decision of what to include. UCC - APC believes that should this additional information be excluded from the teachers guide, th: would constitute a deliberate attempt to suppress true facts of this genocide. Therefore, we ask the Minister to ensure that this information provided through Ms. Sperling to the publishers be included in the teaching guide.

This year, 2008, also marks the 75th Anniversary of the Holodomor and many countries around the world, including our Canadian government, have passed Bills acknowledging the Holodomor as genocide. We are hopeful that this year the Province of Alberta will join that of Saskatchewan and Manitoba in passing a similar Bill setting aside the 4th Saturday in November annually as Holodomor Memorial Day. How inappropriate it would be in such case, for a textbook to be published by our Government which so inadequately covers this tragic genocide.

We strongly feel that the defects in the Holodomor section of the textbook are of such a serious nature that they justify an immediate recall of all the textbooks. Subsequently an expansion and rewrite of the Holodomor section must be undertaken to accurately reflect the historic significance of the Holodomor and a balanced presentation which includes all the relevant aspects. And this time we insist that the publishers consult with us before approving the final version. We have at our disposal numerous resources to verify and support this development.

We acknowledge that this will involve extra costs, but also believe this course of action is necessary in order to give a proper historical perspective. We would also point out that had the publishers consulted with us in the first place, as we had requested, this recall could have been avoided.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Ukrainian Canadian Congress
-Alberta Provincial Council
Daria Luciw
President, UCC-APC
National Vice-President, UCC

Cc:
Premier Ed Stelmach
The Honourable Gene Zwozdesky
The Honourable Janis Tarchuk
The Honourable Ray Danyluk
The Honourable Heather Klimchuk
Janice Sarich, MLA
Thomas Lukaszuk, MLA
Genia Leskiw, MLA

Canada says "Yes" to Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic aspirations

By Borys Wrzesnewskyj,
MP, Etobicoke Centre

Over 60 years ago in the post-WWII wasteland that was Europe, a new existentialist threat faced the continent's democracies. The threat was a military superpower from the East with an expansionist communist ideology and a Soviet political leadership willing to test Western resolve.

In this atmosphere Louis St. Laurent, Canada's then Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in a 1947 speech to the United Nations, spoke of a defensive regional security organization under Article 51 of the UN Charter that would pool the economic and political resources of North Atlantic democracies.

Canada's call for a North Atlantic alliance was taken up by St. Laurent's deputy, soon to be Foreign Minister, Lester B. Pearson.

With the fall of Czechoslovakia and the Berlin blockade, Americans, who were debating a policy of isolationism, finally resolved to join the British and Canadians in creating a North Atlantic alliance. However "old fashioned" military alliances did not encompass Pearson's vision of a North Atlantic Commonwealth. Pearson envisioned much more; he envisioned a treaty, which would "promote the economic well-being of peoples to achieve social justice... on the side of peace and progress."

In the ensuing debate, Canada attached great importance to a vision of an alliance, which would embrace economic, social and cultural fields; a NATO, which, in Pearson's words, would "not be solely an instrument of unimaginative militarism."

In April 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty was signed. NATO's mandate was defensive and military, with the all-important Article 5 stating "an attack on one or more shall be considered an attack against all"

In consolation to Canada Article 2, the "Canadian Article," stated that "the parties will bring about a better understanding of the principles upon which their institutions are founded and will seek to eliminate conflict in their economic policies and encourage economic collaboration."

Although Article 2 has largely been ignored by NATO, Pearson's vision proved to be prescient. During the decades that followed, this political and economic void was to be filled by an economic and political union of European states. NATO became the shield behind which an economic and political European union could patiently develop.

Initial treaties in the 1950s were followed by the establishment of the European Parliament in 1979 and finally the Treaty on European Union signed in Maastricht in December of 1991.

December 1991 was a historic month in modern European history. Not only was the Maastricht Treaty signed, but the battle between two competing visions for Europe was finally decided. That month saw the birth of the modern EU and an independence referendum during which over ninety percent of Ukrainians voted for independence, ensuring the demise of the Soviet Union.

Since the Soviet collapse, some say that NATO's raison d'etre has disappeared.

However, NATO should not solely be seen through this specific prism. It's important to acknowledge NATO's other role as an expanding shield behind which nascent democracies and free-market societies can flourish, no longer subject to regional threats. These countries knew that the economic and political benefits of European Union membership would surely follow NATO membership. It is for these reasons that former Warsaw Pact countries as well as a number of former Soviet Republics have joined or wish to join NATO.

Canada, in particular, has a special sensitivity surrounding the question of NATO expansion. From the 1950s to the 1980s, waves of refugees from Central and East European came to Canada in search of peace, dignity, respect and prosperity. These Canadians, former refugees, have a unique understanding of the aspirations of their ancestral homelands and support their countries' ascensions to NATO.

Today these countries are stable democratic and free-market states whose future as a part of Europe's Union is unquestionable. For these same reasons Canada will be steadfast in supporting a Ukraine which wishes to embrace our transatlantic community.

Canada was the first among our NATO allies, in fact the first Western democracy, to formally acknowledge Ukraine's independence in 1991. During the 2004 Orange Revolution Canada was the first Western country to announce an unprecedented electoral mission of 500 official Canadian observers in support of Ukraine's threatened democratic processes and institutions. Today Canada's government calls upon our NATO partners to endorse a fragile democratic and free-market Ukraine's ascension into NATO, a decision that will be Ukraine's alone to make.

There are those who question Ukraine's NATO ascension due to energy worries or threats. These are the same countries which not that many decades ago faced an exponentially greater threat; notwithstanding which Canada and the Alliance embraced them. Due to the Alliance's embrace, these countries' populations are now among the most free and prosperous on the globe.

Others try to find excuses in not embracing Ukraine by pointing to its "messy" political situation. This is a healthy sign of a nascent democratic state. In fact, how refreshing the messiness of Ukraine's political processes when compared to the rule by decree in neighbouring Belarus or Russia.

The twentieth century was tragic for humanity, and in particular for Ukraine. It was a century that saw the bloodiest battles of two World Wars fought on Ukraine's territory, resulting in the sacrifice of millions. This is the land of the Holodomor which saw millions of villagers (whose harvest was taken from them) lay down their famine ravaged bodies onto her black soil; a country where generation after generation of intelligentsia and spiritual leaders were decimated. Ukraine is a country which lost her independence five times in the last century and paid for that loss with the lives of millions of her sons and daughters.

Today, Ukraine is confronted with a historic choice: to join the North Atlantic union, or not. To join a NATO that has historically proven itself as a guarantor of independence, democracy and prosperity of its member states. To embrace, or not to embrace, the family of democratic and free market NATO countries is a decision that only Ukraine can make.

Canada said "yes" to the union with France and England in the 1940s. Canada said "yes" to Germany in the 1950s and "yes" to the countries of Central Europe and the Baltic States in the 1990s. And in 2008, Canada is ready to say "yes" to Ukraine.

This piece is excerpted from a keynote address Wrzesnewskyj delivered at Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic Future Forum II in Kyiv, June 2.

MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj with Volodymyr Ohryzko, Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs at Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic Future Forum II in Kyiv, July 2.

Canada and Ukraine renew the ties that bind

By Garry Breitkreuz, *M.P., Yorkton-Melville*

The recent visit to Canada of President of Ukraine Victor Yushchenko felt much like a homecoming in Ottawa.

More than 1.2 million Canadians are of Ukrainian origin, and they have helped to build our country into the powerhouse it is today. Prime Minister Stephen Harper provided a warm welcome on May 26 to President Yushchenko at a special sitting with Members of Parliament, Senators and invited guests in attendance.

Prime Minister Harper addressed President Yushchenko and the assembly: "This may be an historic day, but it has been a long time coming. Many Ukrainians have preceded you here. Roughly 100 years ago, there began the mass migration of tens of thousands of your countrymen and countrywomen to Canada... They were hardy, hard-working and hopeful people, who saw in our largely untouched country a land of great opportunity.

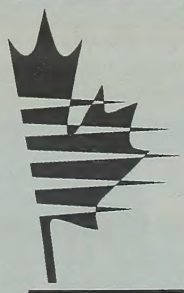
"Many were attracted to the vast open grasslands of the Canadian Prairies, which, while unsheltered from the harsher elements, reminded them of the steppes back home," continued Prime Minister Harper. "We often forget how difficult those pioneering days really were. Many of those settlers endured terrible hardships, but they prevailed and built the farms, families and fraternities that were vital to the social and economic development of western Canada."

The assembly was reminded that the Government of Canada under Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was the first western nation to recognize Ukraine independence from Russian tyranny in 1991.

Prime Minister Harper noted that Canadian support at that time was unanimous: "As you know, Mr. President, when those who would turn back the clock in Ukraine tried to stop the Orange Revolution, all the parties of both houses of this Parliament and all the people of this nation joined with your country and with your courageous leadership to say, 'Never again will Ukraine lose her freedom.'"

The prime minister also noted a Private Members Bill was before Parliament to provide legal recognition for the genocide in Ukraine under the brutal communist dictatorship of Joseph Stalin. On this 75th anniversary of Holodomor, we must remember the past so that it can never again be repeated. The bill, which is now law, received unanimous concurrence for all stages in the House of Commons the following day, was passed unanimously by the Senate, May 28 and received Royal Assent May 29,

Canadians are not afraid of history or the truth, and we embrace our cousins in Ukraine in their quest for peace and prosperity.



PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

It Is Always A Good Idea To Be Prepared

The recent television images of flooding in New Brunswick bring home once again how important it is to be prepared for disaster before it strikes. Dealing with an emergency is a lot easier if that situation has been anticipated and prepared for.

National Emergency Preparedness Week is just past, but it is not too late for you and your family to prepare for the unexpected. You can get a lot of useful information from the Public Safety Canada's website: www.getprepared.ca.

The first task is to know the risks. Edmonton residents have no reason to prepare for a tsunami – the city is just too far from the ocean. But there is a risk here of tornadoes, or of severe weather conditions, for example, that could cause power outages. What do you do if the electricity is off for a week?

Once you know the risks, you need an emergency plan, something that every Canadian household should have. The plan should include, among other things, emergency exits from your home, a designated meeting place should you become separated from family or roommates, and include a diagram showing the location of your fire extinguisher, electrical box, water valve, gas valve and floor drain. Then, if an emergency happens you won't have to rely on your memory when you're under stress.

It is also important to have an emergency kit – both for your home and your vehicle. A basic emergency kit could contain (but not be limited to) bottled water, some canned food (and a manual can opener), first aid supplies, a flashlight and batteries and a battery powered radio. Pack your kit in something easy to carry, such as a backpack, in case you need to change locations quickly.

Being prepared for potential emergencies makes good sense to me.

What do you think?

495-3261 **www.petergoldring.ca**

Студенти Курсів українознавства відвідали Україну

Саша Воротиленко

Ми, студенти четвертого випускного курсу Курсів Українознавства ім. Івана Франка, мали можливість в березні цього року поїхати до України – батьківщини наших предків і побачити на власні очі як живуть, працюють, навчаються і відпочивають люди в Україні. Багато з моїх однокласників ніколи не були в Україні, і це була дуже добра нагода побувати в Україні, мати можливість спілкуватися українською мовою щодня, і побачити різні архітектурні споруди. Наша подорож почалась зі Львова. Там ми мали можливість ходити по місту і бачити різні історичні місця наприклад Вірменська церква, аптекарський музей, оперний театр, багато історичних будинків, церков, статуй, бачили «Високий Замок», були на Личаківському цвинтарі, де поклали квіти на могилу Володимира Івасюка та Івана Франка. Також ми відвідали сиротинець №1. Діти і вихователі радо зустрічали нас. Діти підготували для нас невеличкий концерт і подарували нам свої малюнки, а також показали нам свої кімнати, де вони граються, їдять, відпочивають. Ми в свою чергу на гроші, які ми зібрала в Едмонтоні, купили їм потрібні речі (іграшки, книжки, одяг і т.д). Наступне місто, яке ми відвідали, було Івано-Франківськ. Багато з нас полюбило це місто. Це невелике, але затишне, компактне, зелене місто, центр якого відданий пішоходам. Ми пройшлись по центральній вулиці, і побачили багато історичних та культурних споруд, церкви, міську ратушу. Наступного дня наша подорож продовжувалась до міста Яремче. Це дуже мальовнича місцевість. Ми мали можливість сходити до Скелі Довбуша, послухати місцеві легенди про цього народного містника, а також покуштувати гуцульські страви у ресторані «Гуцульщина».

Коломия- місто найбільшої писанки в світі, вона навіть більша, ніж у нас в місті Веґрівіл в Альберті і там ми побували в Музеї Писанок, де зібрана велика колекція писанок зі всіх регіонів України. Далі наша подорож продовжувалась до Чернівців. Там ми побували в університеті, який, на мою думку, справив велике враження на нас всіх. Це бувша резиденція метрополіта Буковини і Далматії і декотрі з нас хотіли би навчатися там. Також ми мали екскурсію по місту. Наступні міста, які ми відвідали, були Хотин та Камянець Подільский. Ці міста знамениті своїми стародавніми фортецями і ми могли доторкнутися своїми руками до їхніх стін і послухати екскурсоводів про їхню історію.

Тернопіль. Ми мали тільки один день провести и цьому місті, але нам дуже сподобався ресторан «Старий Млин» з його цікавим інтерєром та смачною їжою.

І ось ми у Києві. Ми розташувались у готелі Україна прямо на Майдані. В цьому місті є що подивиться: Собор Св. Софії, Києво-Печерська Лавра, Собор Св. Володимира, Андрійєвський Узвіз і т.д. Було дуже цікаво побачити це історичне місто. Один день ми відклали, щоб поїхати в Канів і побувати на могилі Тараса Шевченка, заспівати його Заповіт. У місті-музеї Переяслав Хмельницькому ми побували в музеї під відкритим небом де зібрані експонати зі всіх куточків України котрі належать до різних епох, такі як Трепільська культура, Скіфська, період нашестія татар і зовсім недалекого минулого, такі як радянські часи. Наша подорож закінчилась зустріччю з послом Канади в Україні п. Абайна Данн. Ми мали можливість з нею розмовляти і задавати питання, на спогад про цю зустріч ми зробили знимку з нею.

Студенти перед найбільшою писанкою в світі в м. Коломия.

"Свято Весни" в Едмонтоні

(р. п.) Пластуни, можливо, по всьому світі відмічують кінкць занять по домівках впродовж осени, зими й провесни і початок праці літом серед природи "Святом весни". До речі згадати, що нераз такі свята також називали "Святом Юрія", бо в нашому народі день святого Юрія був пов'язаний з різними весняними святкуваннями, а святий великомученик Юрій Переможець у свою чергу є патроном не тільки Української скавтської організації "Пласт", але й світового скавтського руху взагалі.

Під тим оглядом едмонтонська станиця не інакша других, але роками так велося, що таке свято тривало тільки один день, звичайно в одному з численних міських парків.

Цього року едмонтонці відмовилися від такого порядку і, як буває в деяких інших станицях, зробили це триденним святом за містом у приватному парку "Camp Warwa", що над озером св. Ганни. Пластове юнацтво (типово віком від 12 до 18 рр.) і новацтво (6 до 11 рр.) зі своїми виховниками вирушили автобусом з домівки в п'ятницю 16 травня 2008 р., щоб таборувати серед природи; юнацтво в шатрах, а новацтво в колибах. Розтаборившись, пластуни розпалили вогник, навколо якого лунали пісні.

Правдиві заняття почалися в суботу 17 травня. Після сніданку проходили відповідні ігри та вправи гуртками (юнацтво) і роями (новацтво), для яких всеціло використано змагове й спортивне обладнання табору "Варва". Так, наприклад, пластуни стріляли з лука, вчилися гребти, щоб тоді примінити це вміння на байдарках в озері, піднімалися на стіні за допомогою канатів, стрибали через перешкоди і робили багато чого подібного, щоб з одного боку розвинути особисту силу й самовистачальність, а з другого скріпити почуття гурту, в якому кожен може полягати на другого.

За давньою пластовою традицією, усі заняття проводилися так, щоб виховати пошану до оточення й природи, щоб її не тільки не пошкодити, але сприяти здоровому розвиткові.

У неділю рано 18 травня до табору приїхали дальші старші пластуни (18 до 30 рр.) і сеньйори (30+ рр.), батьки й приятелі Пласту. День розпочався Божественною Літургією, яку відправив ієромонах Іриней ЧСВВ, якого владика Давид Едмонтонський назначив духовним опікуном пластунів. У своєму слові о. Іриней згадав, як він колись, ще як Павло Пристаєцький, був у пластових рядах едмонтонської станиці. Службу співали усі присутні.

Свято весни відкрито традиційним пластовим ритуалом – підтягненням прапорів, відспівання пластового й новацького гімнів та відзначенням юнаків. І так, пластуни учасники Адріян Вархола, Євген Горбай і Степан Мартинків, пластуни розвідувачі Михайло Гнатів, Євген Дитиняк і Степан Лазурко, та пластун скоб Тиміш Горбай дістали IV пластове відзначення, а пластун розвідувач Андрій Хіхловський дістав III пластове відзначення за взірцеву працю й поставу. Пластунам Євгену Дитинякові й Степану Лазуркові признано здобуття III проби й підвищенням до ступня пластуна скоба.

Після обіду всі, і пластуни, без огляду на вік, і непластуни брали участь у "лисячому бігу", під час якого треба було віднайти пункти за допомогою карти й відповісти на питання, що там знаходилися. Усі питання стосувалися історії едмонтонської станиці Пласту, 60-річчя якої святкується нинішнього року. Переможцями цього змагання були ті, що найскорше перейшли трасою й відповіли правильно на найбільше питань.

Передостаннім актом свята весни була ватра, якою вміло провадила юначка Марина Ролланд. На ватрі лунали пісні передовсім у виконанні всіх присутніх, але на особливу увагу заслуговує пісня, яку написав пл. розв. Андрій Хіхловський, а музику скомпонував ст. пл. Микола Білаш. Їхній виступ викликав тривалі оплески. На ватрі пластовий камерний хор "Ремінор" заспівав пісню Бумдіяра. Юначки в свою чергу виконали дуже дотепний скетч про те, як порізному пара новачок, юнак і юначка, старший пластун і старша пластунка і двоє сеньйорів ідуть в кіно. За давньою традицією ватру закінчено відспіванням пісень "Сіріли у сумерку" та "Пластове надобраніч".

Якщо відкриття було присвячене юнацтву, то закриття новацтву. Тут, Зенон Горбай і Софія Семенко склали заяву вступу до новацтва, Христина Кушка й Матей Максимович здобули II новацьку пробу, а Ніна Кравець, Наталя Пришляк і Лука Сливінський здобули IV новацьку пробу.

У всіх, що брали участь у цьому "Святі весни" лишилися дуже гарні враження й споминию

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Revived Edmonton UNYF executive sworn-in

(UkrNews)—Executive members of the revived Edmonton Branch of the Ukrainian National Youth Federation of Canada were officially sworn in by Ukrainian National Federation National President Taras Pidzamecky at a ceremony at Edmonton's UNF Hall, May 18.

"Our greatest goal though far from being the easiest, is to unite all our members and the wider community, regardless of their Christian denomination, or their place of birth, or immigration wave, or their place of residence in Canada, around the idea of Ukrainian national solidarity, Canadian citizenship, unity and independence of Ukraine, and respect for the Ukrainian language and culture. And this demands the finding of a common language, mutual respect and the mutual love of Ukrainian to Ukrainian," said Pidzamecky, speaking in Ukrainian.

He reminded members that they are trustees of the organization and part of a revival wave.

The branch was revived Feb. 22 by members of the Suzirya drama group.

The executive will now strive to bring in more members will participate in cultural programs, organize field trips, social evenings and grow, newly-elected President Volodymyr Grytsiv told Ukrainian News.

The swearing in ceremony was also attended by 15 UNYF members from Ontario and Quebec, who were participating in a five day exploration of Alberta's Kalyna Country, an eco-museum showcasing the historic block settlements of the Ukrainian Canadian pioneers dating back to the late 1890's.

This multi-faceted educational excursion provided an opportunity for students to learn about the early immigration experience, prairie architecture, challengers of preserving cultural heritage, Albert's contemporary English-Ukrainian bilingual schools and sustainable agriculture. Included was a day-long customized program at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village which provided opportunities to reflect on issues such as challenges facing contemporary immigrants to Canada, and to participate in leadership development activities.

The students also visited the first Ukrainian pioneer settlement in Canada at Star, the Vegreville Pysanka, the Basilian Fathers Museum in Mundare, the Alberta Legislature, the Ukrainian Canadian Archives & Museum, and laid wreaths at the monument to victims of the Holodomor at Edmonton's City Hall.

Above: The Edmonton UNYF Executive pledging their oaths. Below: The Ontario-Quebec group at the Holodomor Monument in Edmonton.

The Intermediate Group.

Verkhovyna School of Ukrainian Dance puts on Year End Concert

(UkrNews)—Verkhovyna School of Ukrainian Dance, a cultural arm of the Ukrainian Youth Association SUM, presented its Year End Concert May 2 at the Arden Theatre in St. Alberta.

The school, which has 11 groups — Pre-Beginner, Beginner 1, Beginner 2, Beginner 3, Beginner 4, Junior 1, Junior 2, Junior 3, Juniormediates, Intermediates and a Senior — performed 20 numbers while guest artists, the Dunai Ukrainian Dancers & Verkhovyna Choir, performed three dances and the songs.

The instructors of the Verkhovyna School are: Stephanie Blahun, Tanya Chrapko, Oksana Iwaszko, Aleksander Korceba, Caroline Orchison, Myrosia Pecuh, Myhajlo Tarasenko, and Andrew Wujcik.

Dunai's Artistic Directors are Tamara Tatuch, Shawn Owchar. While the Verkhovyna Choir is conducted by Halyna Lazurko

The current Director of Verkhovyna School of Ukrainian Dance is Mary Krys, Past Director is Barb Duteau, past Director Assistant is Sarah Lynch.

Christine Laschuk coordinated the Year End concert.

Above: Duet by the Senior Group. Below: Beginners.

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Відправляють панахиду отці зліва Настоятель У. П. Собору св. Володимира, о. Павло Березняк і Митрат о. Євген Галицький, парох У. К. Церкви свх. Володимира і Ольги.

Незгасима Свічка Голодомору у Віндзорі

д–р Ігор Стебельський

23 травня, відбулося дійство у Віндзорі для відмічення 75–ліття голодомору з передачею незгасимої свічки при віндзорським пам'ятнику голодомору, який розташований у прекрасному Джексон парку. Погода була сонячна та привітлива. Дійство було організоване місцевим відділом КУК за ініціятивою Достойного Члена Парламенту для округи Віндзор Вест, Браєн Мессі. До програми також увійшли Достойний Член Парламенту для округи Віндзор–Текамсі, Джоу Комартин, та Радник Міста, Рон Джоунс. Завдяки його сприяння, на дійство прийшли репортери двох місцевих станцій телебачення (CBC, A Channel) та місцевої радіостанції (CKLW).

Програма почалася в 10:30 рано панахидою за покійні жертви голодомору. Молитвами співпровадили два отці митрати: Павло Березняк, парох Українського Православного Собору св. Володимира, та Євген Галицький, парох Української Греко–Католицької Церкви свх. Володимира і Ольги. Підчас панахиди співав хор Церкви свх. Володимира і Ольги, а за ним приспівували члени української громади міста Віндзор.

Президент місцевого відділу КУК, Петро Мицак, виголосив привіт та подав змістовний вступ до дійства та символіки незгасимої свічки англійською та українською мовами. Відтак дост. Браєн Мессі, дост. Джоу Комартин та радник Рон Джоунс висловили громаді свої привіти та співчуття.

Головну промову про голодомор в його історично–політичному контексті виголосив професор емерит Віндзорського університету, д–р Ігор Стебельський. Щоб збагнути, чому голодомор слід вважати як акт геноциду, він подав історично–політичне тло українських визвольних змагань, тактичних змін совєтської політики відносно України, введення сталінської полі-тичної будови «соціалізму» в СССР у 1930 році, яка включала ліквідацію Української Автокефальної Православної Церкви («опіюм народу»), української політично свідомої інтелігенції («буржуазних націоналістів»), та – способом «клясової війни бідних селян проти куркулів» та колективізації – підкорення селян державі. Таким чином, КП СССР бажала ввести одну централізовану господарську систему і стровити обставини для остаточного злиття поодиноких народів, в першу чергу білорусів та українців, в один російськомовний совєтський народ. Голодомор, одначе, почався аж у 1932 році, коли переважна більшість сільських господарств вже були колективізована та куркулів зліквідовано, але держава вимагала чим раз більшого постачання зерна. Для виконання що раз більш амбітних планів експорту зерна задля індустралізації, вживалися каральні заходи відбирання їди по селах, а голодуючим пропонували здавати до державних магазинів все їхне дорогоцінне, щоб вижити. Для виконання збору Сталін був вислав Молотова та Кагановича в Україну, а вже з початком 1933, Постишева, для політичної чистки в Україні. Тільки на весну, коли українське село як підстава української нації вже було винищене, коли мільйони жертв вимерло, Сталін припинив збори харчів і закликав селян з Росії заселяти упустошені села України. Стебельський пояснив, що совєтський уряд держав голодомор в секреті, біженців після війни (між ними свідків голодомору) прозвав зрадниками, а тих, що писали про голод (The Black Deeds of Kremlin, Toronto, 1953) брехунами. Перші кроки визнання голодо-мору було зроблено в Америці у 1986 коли, при науковій співпраці історика д–ра Джеймс Мейс, комітет Конґресу США визнав геноцидний аспект голодомору. Тільки з розпадом СССР голодомор був загально визнаний як історичне явище, а в Україні набрав особливе значення відтворення втраченої історії, тим паче що Україна, за словами д–ра Мейс, залишилася «пост–геноцидною», в котрій провідна верства створена з бувшої совєтської еліти, між котрими є нащадки виконавців голодомору, та принижена верства, яка в більшості походить з переслідуваних. На відміну від Південної Африки, яка старалась вилічити пережиту расову дискримінацію, в Україні зі зрозумілих причин не дійшло до подібної «Комісії Правди та Примирення». Президент Ющенко та патріотичні політики України стараються про міжнародне визнання голодомору як геноцид проти Українців. В Канаді у 2003 р. Сенат утвердив резолюцію про голодомор як геноцид проти української нації. Тепер відбуваються читання внеску законопроєкту в Парляменті Канади до визнання голодомору як геноцид проти українців та призначення дня відмічення голодомору. Стебельський висловив подяку нашим Членам Парляменту за їх підтримку законопроєкту.

Відтак Мессі та Комартин оповіли про внесок законопроєкту про голодомор у Парляменті Канади. Вони пояснили, що всі працюють над по-годженням, та висловив надію, що законо-проєкт буде прийнятий одноголосно.

Дост. Браєн Мессі представив одинокого свідка голодомору міста Віндзор, Стефанію Коростіль. При помочі пана Мицака, вона засвітила Незгасиму Свічку Голодомору, яка запалала делікатним, чистим полум'ям.

Пані Коростіль оповіла як вона, дванадцятилітньою дівчинкою, вижила голодомор. Вона згадала про страшне людожерство, і котрих її членів родини втрачено через розкуркулення, а котрих через голодомор.

Після оповідання, Мессі попросив присутніх вшанувати загиблих однохвилинною мовчанкою.

Пані Коростіль символічно передала свічку Мессі.

На закінчення, пролунали національні гимни України і Канади. Панна Леся Назаревич, Заступник Президента місцевого відділу КУК, подякувала всім учасникам і спостерігачам за їх вклад та присутність.

ФОТО ЮРІЙ — ПОПАДИНЕЦЬ

Дівчата з танцювальної групи "Світанок" біля пам'ятника Голодомору.

Незгасима свічка на Парляментській гірці

Юлія Войчишин

Започаткована в Австралії подорож Незгасимої свічки по 33-ох країнах, 26-го травня закінчила свою канадську подорож в 17-ому місті, в столиці Канади – Оттаві. Збігом обставин було це, що в цей час Канаду з офіційною візитою відвідував Президент України Віктор Ющенко, який узяв участь у церемонії передавання Незгасимої свічки.

Одначе, факт того, що президент України мав дуже обмежений час на цю участь, програма була скорочена до пів години і строго дотримувалася ведучим Борисом Ґенґалом. На тлі парламенту лопотіли чотири канадські та українські прапори, що їх тримали пластуни і пластунки на горішній частині сходів, а діти у вишиванках та в сумівських та пластових одностроях розтягнули Рушник єдності за достойними гостями, які стояли на середній площадці сходів, що ведуть до Центрального блоку парламенту.

Гимн «Ще не вмерла Україна» і "O Canada", відспівав чоловічий хор «Акорд» під диригентурою Олі Катрушенко. Молитву, спеціяльно написано на цю оказію, проголосив її автор, о. др. Андрій Онуферко. У цій молитві він благав Господа також і за благословення для «раба Божого Віктора і раби Божої Катерини». Закінчивши молитву він привітав людей великоднім привітом «Христос Воскрес».

Від уряду Канади виступив Секретар Багатокультурности та Канадської Ідентичности Джейсон Кенні. Він наголосив: "The cries of those who perished, and the memories of those who survived, echo over time to us today. They compel us to never forget". Тому він поінформував, що на другий день Парламент буде дебатувати і голосувати за прийняття закону поданого депутатом Джеймсом Безаном, яким визнаватиметься Голодомор ґеноцидом і злочином проти людства. Він додав, що кабінет міністрів під проводом Прем'єр Міністра Гарпера вже прийняв рішення "formally and fully to support the adoption of the bill, recognizing the Holodomor as an act of genocide". Як знаємо, в наступних днях всі формальності в Палаті депутатів, в Сенаті і в Ґенерального Ґубернатора було позитивно проведено і тепер Канада додається до тих країн, що визнали Голодомор ґеноцидом українського народу.

У свойому Ющенко сказав: «Я хочу висловити вдячність вам, канадським українцям, за те, що упродовж десятиліть ви свято берегли пам'ять про невинно загиблих, робили все можливе, щоб світ довідався про геноцид проти нашої нації. Президент закликав присутніх вшанувати «душі мільйонів убієнних» хвилиною мовчання, а тоді закінчив всій виступ словами: «Донесіть полум'я Незгасимої свічки до кожного народу, до кожної людини, до кожного серця. ...Царство небесне всім убієнним ...Нехай Господь Бог згадає їх усіх у царстві своєму. Слава Канаді! Слава Україні!»

Після цього приступлено до церемоніялу передачі Незгасимої свічки від представника покоління тих, хто пережив Голодомор 1932-1933 років, Степана Горлача, в руки сучасної української молоді, представником яких була пластунка Люда Мончак. Перед прийняттям свічки вона виголосила коротку промову в українській, англійській та французькій мовах при кінці якої сказала:

"We, the youth, accept this flame today with humility and pride. With it we honour the victims... we remember those who survived, and we cherish those who are still with us today. To the survivors we make a promise to always remember. We make a promise to ensure that your stories are shared, to ensure that your stories live on forever in the hearts and minds of future generations."

Перебравши Незгасиму Свічку під пана Горлача, Люда зійшла вниз по сходах і засвітила свічки дівчатам з танцювальної групи "Світанок". Танцювальниці в стилізованих українських строях, під звуки пісні «Свіча» у виконанні Оксани Білозір до слів поета Богдана Стельмаха і музики композитора Мирослава Скорика, понесли вогонь до пам'ятника Голодомору на середині площі перед парламентом і засвітили чотири великі свічі в чотирьох кутах його. Цей пам'ятник, на подобу Київського, був спроєктований і збудований членами комітету Татяною Марченко і Володимиром Катрушенком. Довкола нього кілька раз різнородом хороводу пройшлися танцівниці виконуючи різні скорботні кроки і при кінці пісні завмерли у молитовних позах по чотирьох кутах пам'ятника.

Під звуки Реквієм композитира Євгена Станковича, Люда Мончак із Незгасимою Свічкою повернулася лицем до Парламенту звідки по сходах зійшов Президент з пані Катериною, засвітили свої свічки та понесли і поставили перед пам'ятником Голодомору. Це саме зробив Міністер Кенні, Посол України Ігор Осташ, президент Конґресу Українців Канади Павло Ґрод, голова КУК – Оттава, Борис Сірський. Також брали участь Архиепископо Юрій, сен. Райнел Андрейчук, голова СФУЖО Марійка Шкамбара, віцепрезидент СКУ Євген Чолію, Ґенеральний Секретар СКУ Віктор Педенко та голова Всеканадського комітету Голодомору КУК Ірина Мицак. За ними ставили свічки і всі люди під звуки Реквіюму та прекрасного хорового співу "Вічная пам'ять". Президент Ющенко зробив неофіційний обхід, чим викликав велике захоплення і дітей і дорослих.

З багатьох парламентаристів, які взяли участь назвемо таких: Борис Вжесневський, Пеґґі Наш, Джуді Василиця-Ліс, Джой Сміт, Пітер Ґолдрінґ, Кен Бошкоф, Блер Вилсон, Ед Комарницький, Бернард Біґра та інші. З духовенства, крім вже зга–даних були: о. Кирило Микитюк, о. Максим Лисак, о. Роман Рицар, о. Зенон Ґентош, о. Ігор Охримчук ; були також представники дипломатичного корпусу та етнічних груп – білорусів, словаків, чехів, та інших. Було багато гостей з Торонта, Ошави та Монтреалю.

Хореографом "Світанку" був Петро Неборський, а музичним супроводом зайнявся Віталій Смішний. В організаційному комітеті під головуванням Юлі Войчишин, працювали, крім вже названих у тексті вгорі, також Надя Дубик-Гавришкевич, Оксана П'ясецька, Михайло Риндзак, Адріяна Буйняк-Вилсон, Ірена Белл, Ірина Кодак-Новаківська і Микола Біланюк. Від Посольства України в комітеті працювала Олена Захарова.

Art show an evening to remember

By Stephania Romaniuk

May 29 Calgarians gathered at the third annual "Ukrainians at Art" show, featuring local Ukrainian Canadian artistic talent. Joint sponsors of the evening were the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Calgary (UCPBA Calgary) and the Alberta Council for Ukrainian Arts (ACUA). Held for the first time at St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cultural Centre, over 150 attendees were able to view and purchase works created by 23 artists of Ukrainian heritage. The art included vivid prairie landscapes in a wide range of styles, delicate watercolours, exquisite photography, whimsical ceramics, and ornately decorated pysanky — Ukrainian painted Easter eggs.

Svitlana Kravets receives the "People's Choice" Award from Petrusia Hantzsch

At "St. Vlad's", tables and canvases were arranged in elegant, flowing walkways through which the attendees were free to browse and mingle as they pleased. Lana Sokoloski entertained guests on the bandura, and Halya Haridzuk provided mouth-watering Ukrainian appetizers for all to enjoy as they walked through a maze of colour and texture. Having once overheard a gentleman gleefully describe the scene at a Ukrainian dance festival as "colourful", I must say that the Ukrainian artists at this event did not disappoint in this respect either!

This year, Petrusia and Michael Hantzsch, President of UCPBA Calgary, generously sponsored a competition to recognize the work that most represented the "spirit of Ukraine." Artists were invited to submit one work to the competition and, like MTV's "People's Choice Awards", audience members voted for their top pick. The winner was Svitlana Kravets, a newcomer to Calgary who hails from Lviv and Toronto. Her winning entry was entitled "Rushnyky", and pictured a vase of crimson poppies surrounded by Ukrainian embroidered cloths.

Participating artists came from many different backgrounds and were of all ages. Their work displayed unique perspectives on Ukrainian and other inspirational topics. Flowers of all kinds were a common theme, and Ukraine's national poet-hero, Taras Shevchenko, also made an appearance on canvas. Audience members were even treated to a "didukh" (arrangement of woven wheat) that was five feet tall and free standing! Clearly Calgary's Ukrainian artistic talent is as varied in its choice of media as in its ages and backgrounds. The Ukrainian Museum of Canada Calgary Collection UWAC and Mary Bereziuk of Assumption Ukrainian Seniors also displayed authentic historical exhibits, arousing the curiosity of all. The evening was ably emceed by Oksana Hnatiuk, Past-President of UCPBA Calgary.

This year's "Ukrainians at Art" featured a special Edmontonian guest, Khrystyna Kohut, speaking about her work as the President of the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta. Originally created in 1972 by her parents, Hryhory and Stefania Yopyk, as a museum commemorating the contribution of Ukrainians in Alberta, this institution houses historical documents such as newspapers and Ukrainian events posters, exhibits works of art and serves as a vital educational tool for all Albertans. UCAMA will soon be moving to a new, larger location to better serve its patrons and Ms. Kohut encouraged audience members to help financially with the renovations for the new facility. Those interested in UCAMA can check out www.ucama.com for more details about the institution as well as ways to support this meaningful and worthy project!

Eager to build upon the momentum created at this year's event, organizers Barbara Romaniuk and Halya Wilson have already started to plan next year's celebration of "Ukrainians at Art".

Evanko performs moving Holodomor tribute

(UkrNews)—A former Broadway actor turned Ukrainian Catholic priest, performed a moving tribute to the 7 – 10 million victims of Ukraine's 1932-33 genocidal Holodomor at St Basil's Cultural Centre in Edmonton, May 29.

Father Edward Evanko's performance of "Be Well and Prosper. My Beloved Ukraine", was very warmly received by the 300 audience members, many of them fellow priests and bishops from across Canada, who were participating in the Encounter 2008 gathering in Edmonton, May 26-28.

Evanko has been able to seamlessly combine the skills and talents honed in his decades as an actor and singer with his more recently acquired knowledge of theology and liturgy and offer the fruits of this second call to people who seem to hunger for it.

The 80-minute one-man show is a presentation of songs combined with writings by eye-witness survivors.

The idea was first suggested to him by Father John Tataryn of St. Demetrius Parish in Toronto and at first Fr. Evanko didn't know when he would find the time to do this as he was ministering to 12 rural parishes in Manitoba at the time.

But Fr Tataryn sent him some material, then Fr. Evanko began searching for more on the internet and elsewhere.

"I just went everywhere I could to find people who had written about the Holodomor and that's how this happened," he explained.

Father Edward Evanko

Then the songs started coming to his head. One passage reminded him of one song and from there, other hymns, lullabies and songs began to materialize.

Edward Danylo Evanko was born in Winnipeg in 1941 to Danylo Evanko and Justyna Dmytryk, who had emigrated from Western Ukraine. He was baptized and received First Communion at Blessed Virgin Mary Church. His mother died when he was twelve and his father remarried a very devout woman, Doris Tataryn. To his own sisters, Jennie and Anne, were now added her daughters, Gladys and Florence.

Evanko completed a BA at the University of Manitoba, appeared at Rainbow Stage, and on CBC TV and Radio. Studies at the Bristol Old Vic in England were followed with engagements with the Stratford Festival, the English Opera, the Welsh National Opera, and the BBC Singers. His Broadway debut gained him a Theatre World Award, to which were added a New Jersey Drama Critics Award and a Los Angeles Ovation Award nomination .He has recorded Broadway albums for Capitol, RCA, an album for Decca, and three for Destiny Records. He has appeared at all the major Ukrainian Festivals in Canada and the USA, and has promoted Ukrainian music by singing on many occasions at the Ukrainian Institute and at Lincoln Centre in NYC.

He completed his academic and spiritual formation at the Pontificio Collegio Beda in Rome, at St. Josaphat Seminary and Catholic University in Washington DC, and at Holy Spirit Seminary and St. Paul University in Ottawa. He received his Master of Theology degree in the spring of 2005, and served in the Archeparchy of Winnipeg. in the District of Rossburn/Russell for 2 _ years prior to coming to the Eparchy of New Westminster to serve as pastor the Church of the Holy Dormition of the Mother of God in Richmond BC.

Bandurist Chorus elects new Artistic Director

(UNC)—At a special membership meeting held on May 31 in Cleveland, Ohio, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus membership elected Adrian Bryttan its seventh conductor in North America since 1949. Maestro Bryttan will begin his term on July 1.

In November of 2007, Oleh Mahlay announced to the UBC membership that he will be stepping down as the Conductor and Artistic Director in order to spend more time with family. At that time, a Conductor Search Committee was formed and included the following UBC members: Ihor Kusznir, Committee Chairman and current UBC Assistant Conductor; Anatoli W. Murha, committee Secretary and current UBC President; George Metulynsky, Michael Serdiuk, Orest Sklierenko, John Zinchuk and Roman Beley.

Over a period of six months, the search committee implemented a communication plan and the search was conducted based on recommendations and best practices as suggested by the American Symphony Orchestra League, Chorus America and other similar cultural organizations. The initial search for a conductor looked at potential candidates throughout the USA, Canada and Ukraine. A select number of candidates were contacted, all of whom were honoured to be considered for the position. Candidates were given a detailed job description and asked to submit a resume. Upon committee review of the resumes, interviews were held with potential candidates in various cities. All candidates were rated based on a detailed list of criteria. Following the interviews, a select number of candidates were invited to participate in a working session with the UBC. After each session, UBC members were asked to fill out an evaluation form for each conductor; these results were compiled and considered by the committee in the decision making process.

"The search process revealed several highly qualified candidates. The committee had a challenging task at hand and felt Maestro Bryttan was the best fit for this incredible responsibility. Our committee recommended Bryttan but the ultimate decision was left to the UBC membership," said Kuszni.

Per the UBC by-laws, the active membership must elect a Conductor with a two-thirds majority vote.

When first asked about the prospect of working with the UBC, Bryttan emphasized, "The impact of the UBC resonates far beyond just musical concerts. We have a golden opportunity to reach wider audiences and make new influential and helpful friends. Together we need to be image-builders for the Ukrainian spiritual and cultural heritage."

"My priority will be to reach American public and mainstream media audiences by widening the repertoire to include international and contemporary composers. A major part of my efforts will consequently be devoted to the visual and production aspects of our concerts", he explained.

"The UBC is a unique musical ensemble and I intend to continue cultivating our rich heritage of kobzari and bandurysty music. The central core of our repertoire will be devoted, as always, to the best in the traditional and contemporary Ukrainian dumas, ballads, folk songs and instrumental compositions. This is what we are about. At the same time, it can be effective to steer the concerts towards more variety. Possibilities will include more showcasing of the bandura as an improvised solo performance along with specialized smaller ensembles."

Bryttan, a resident of New York, enjoys an international career as violin soloist as well as conductor. He performed the Alban Berg violin concerto as winner of the Concerto Competition at the Manhattan School of Music and was also the first recipient of the Pablo Casals Award "for musical accomplishment and human endeavour".

At the podium, extensive symphonic repertoire encompasses world premiere performances of symphonic compositions and operas. He has been engaged to lead new productions at the Chicago Opera Theatre, New Haven and New Rochelle Operas, and the John Brownlee Opera Theatre. He has appeared with Sinfonia Varsovia in Warsaw, Theatre Bielefeld in Germany, the Seoul Philharmonic in Korea and in numerous televised performances with the Lviv Philharmonic, Lviv Opera and Kharkiv Opera in Ukraine. His latest CD recording is Handel's "Acis and Galatea" with the Warsaw Chamber Symphony. Recently *Classical New Jersey* praised his conducting of Wagner's "Die Walküre" as "brilliant and masterful...could have emerged from any orchestra pit in the world with honour."

In 2005 and 2006 Bryttan was appointed a Fulbright International Scholar and assigned to Ukraine where he introduced such contemporary symphonic compositions like Ginastera's ballet suite from "Estancia", the Britten "Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes", William Grant Still's "Panamanian Dances", compositions by Gunther Schuller, contemporary Chinese composers and "Big Band Sounds" and other jazz works for orchestra. During his tenure in Ukraine, he worked with professional symphonies, opera theatres, musical conservatories, and lectured at universities, museums, and film societies.

Bryttan has served as conductor and violinist on the music faculties at Memphis State, Kansas State and Notre Dame Universities and most recently, Vassar College. He has been invited to conduct operatic and symphonic performances at Rutgers University and the Manhattan School of Music.

UBC President Anatoli Murha had the following to say, "The UBC is fortunate to find such a highly qualified conductor to lead us towards our 100th anniversary. The UBC not only represents itself and its work, but represents Ukraine, Ukrainian culture and music, and Ukrainians around the world. I feel very strongly that Maestro Bryttan understands our mission I look forward to working with him.

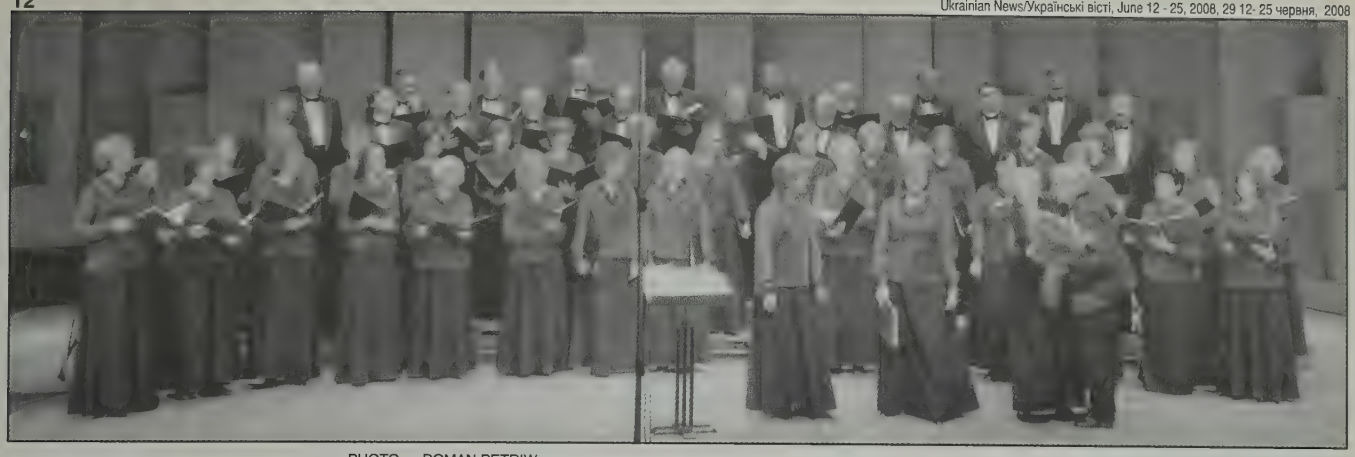

PHOTO — ROMAN PETRIW

Dnipro during their most recent appearance (Montreal in February).

Dnipro Ensemble to appear in Smoky Lake

(UkrNews)—The Ukrainian Dnipro Ensemble of Edmonton will be putting on a concert of Ukrainian classical and folk music at the Ukrainian National Hall in Smoky Lake, June 22.

The concert, which also features special guests, the Holubka Dancers, will be held at 2:30 pm. Admission is by donation.

Formed 55 years ago by Roman Soltykewych, along with a group of devotees, whose primary concern was the fostering, promotion, and perpetuation of the finest elements of Ukrainian choral music, as the Dnipro Male Chorus, the choir expanded in 1971 to become a mixed choir. The Dnipro Ensemble of Edmonton continues this work of preserving the rich Ukrainian musical culture within the parameters of the Canadian multicultural identity. Its accomplished history includes everything from annual concerts, countless community appearances, fundraising activities, vocal workshops, and weekly rehearsals — to the staging of full-scale operas, international tours, and numerous collaborative performances with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra.

Under the direction of Maria Dytyniak since the 1970's, Dnipro has had the privilege of working with esteemed conductors and directors including Maestro Wolodymyr Kolesnyk, the former conductor and artistic director of the Kyiv State Opera and Ballet Theatre. Over 400 Edmontonians have been members of the choir through the years.

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"With a warm heart"

By Ihor Bardyn

"I am pleased to be able to make these donations with a warm heart and not cold hands", are the words spoken by the Hon. John Yaremko on a sunny March day at West Park Health Centre in Toronto.

John Yaremko, (sitting). First Row (left to right): Laryssa Hunka, Rose Sametz, Lucia Hicks, Ihor Bardyn. Second Row (left to right): William Sametz, William Zyla, Pavlo Hunka, Oleksandr Hordienko.

The community representatives who came to share tea and chocolate cake with the first Ukrainian Canadian elected to the Ontario Legislature, represented the "Ukrainian Art Song Project" of the Canadian Ukrainian Opera Association of Toronto, the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Internship Program for university students from Ukraine, and the Katedra Foundation's John and Myroslava Yaremko Canada-Ukraine Lectureship at Ukraine's universities.

John and his late spouse Myroslava embarked on a philanthropic path shortly after his retirement from the Legislature in 1975. In the process they made important and substantial gifts to Roy Thompson Hall, the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Canadian Opera company, the John and Myroslava Yaremko Forest on the Niagara Escarpment, Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, the Shevchenko Foundation in Winnipeg, Bellwoods Centres for Community Living in Toronto, and the Royal Ontario Museum.

More recently with an endowment of $600,000 the annual John and Mary Yaremko Lectureship on Multiculturalism and Human Rights was established at the Faculty of Law of University of Toronto. In February of this year, to meet the needs of St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Toronto, the St. Volodymyr Foundation of Toronto received a gift of $215,000, while the Yaremko's Georgian style home was gifted to St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral to serve as a parish residence. On April 3 John Yaremko made an important pledge of $50,000 to the John Robarts Library at the University of Toronto, to preserve and make broadly accessible retrospective library materials relating to Ukrainian history, literature language and culture through digitization.

The John and Myroslava Yaremko Canada-Ukraine Lectureship in Ukraine was initiated in the Fall 2007 academic term at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy by Stephen Velychenko, where he taught at the Political Science Department. Dr. Velychenko is a Fellow of the Chair of Ukrainian Studies and Research Associate at the Munk Centre, University of Toronto. This visiting lectureship, generously funded by Yaremko, will allow Canadian Academics to teach no-Ukrainian subjects, in English where possible, at Ukrainian universities. It is intended to give Ukrainian students knowledge of Canadian studies and to generate greater cooperation between Canada and Ukraine on educational issues.

The Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Internship Program for university students from Ukraine received a donation of $100,000. The 2007 John and Myroslava Yaremko Scholarship recipient was Oksana Kleutina a student at the National Aviation University of Kyiv. Ms Kleutina on receiving the news in Kyiv said "I am honoured to be the 2007 John & Myroslava Yaremko Scholarship recipient in the Canadian parliament. During my Internship I researched Mr. Yaremko's history as Cabinet Minister in the Ontario and his support of multiculturalism and the multicultural communities of Hungarian, Italian, Baltic, and Ukrainian Canadians is unparalleled. I will forever be honoured to have received the Yaremko Scholarship. During my Internship in the House of Commons, I discovered that Mr. Yaremko received The Officers Cross of the Order of Hungary, the highest award that a non-Hungarian can receive from the Republic of Hungary".

The Ukrainian Art Song Project received an initial donation of $25,000. The Art Song Project's goal is to leave a legacy of masterfully written Ukrainian Art Songs that have never been heard before. Composers such as Mykola Lysenko, Kyrylo Stetsenko, Yakiv Stepoviy and Borys Lyatochinskiy are among the masters who wrote in this particular genre and whose works will be represented in this comprehensive anthology. Opera Star Pavlo Hunka accepted the initial donation of $25,000 for the Art Song Project. He said, "Mr. Yaremko, your generosity has helped the Ukrainian Art Song Project to take a giant step forward and to come closer to our goal of releasing the complete art songs of Mykola Lysenko in 2009. Lysenko composed six hours of exquisite music which is now coming to the attention of the classical world. As a composer of art songs, he is at last taking his rightful place alongside other great composers such as Schubert, Schumann, Wolf, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Debussy and Ravel."

Hunka went on to explain that the works are already digitized and will soon be published on the Ukrainian Art Song Project Website: www.uasp.ca. "Anyone, anywhere in the world will be able to download the score of any of the art songs, at no cost and in any key they desire. Thus, we will be creating a world library of Ukrainian classical gems."

The philanthropic activity of John Yaremko and his late spouse Myroslava will leave a legacy of great importance to the arts, community living, civil society and education both in Canada and Ukraine.

† Dr. Melety Snihurowych passes away

Dr. Melety Snihurowych, a longtime activist In Edmonton's Ukrainian community passed away, May 30.

Dr. Snihurowych was born on Sept. 27, 1918 in Szedrowa, Western Ukraine. He was one of 13 children, five of whom died at an early age. His father Mykhailo was a Ukrainian catholic priest and his mother Melania's maiden name was Stawnychyj. His early childhood was spent in the village of Romashiwka where his father was the parish priest. When he was four his family moved to Yazliwci where he completed four grades of public school. he then entered the Gimnazium (a European high school) in Buchach which he completed successfully, after some interruptions, in 1938. During that time he spent over a year in the Buchach convent of the Basilian vows. One of his teachers there was Father Baranek who later was head (ihumen) of the Basilian monastery in Mundare.

After Gimnazium he enrolled in the Law faculty at the University of Lviv where he studied until World War II broke out. He had initially applied to the Faculty of Medicine but was told that, in order to be accepted, he had to state that he was Roman Catholic, which he refused to do.

As a student he was an active member of numerous student organizations. When the Soviet forces occupied Ukraine, he was forced to leave the city of Lviv and, eventually, Ukraine. After numerous travels, he settled in Warsaw, Poland. At the beginning of 1941 he married Iryna Lozynska. They returned to Lviv and, in September of 1942, their son Wolodar was born. Walter, as he is now known, is a Urologist who currently resides in the U.S. While back in Lviv Melety took an active part in rebuilding Ukrainian life and was actually finally admitted to the Faculty of Medicine. However, these studies were again interrupted because the Soviets came back and the young family had to flee Ukraine for good.

"More lengthy travels eventually took them to Austria. during those travels he did some detours through Germany which affected me personally," recalled his nephew, Lubomyr Pastuszenko in delivering the eulogy at the June 2 Prayer Service.

"I was a six year old fleeing the Soviet front with my mother, my grandparents Rev. and Mrs. Snihurowych and my youngest uncle Wiroslaw who was only a few years older. We were stuck in a refuge camp in an East German city of Trybis for three months with no-

Dr. Melety Snihurowych at the Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Alberta Provincial Council Awards Banquet in 2006, when he was presented with the Hetman Award for his years of volunteer service to the Ukrainian community.

where to go and wondering what was going to happen to us. Then, one day, my uncle Melety showed up out of nowhere and rescued us. Eventually we ended up in Landeck, Austria. Who knows where I would be now if it hadn't been for him."

In Austria, Melety settled in Innsbruck where he entered the Faculty of Medicine, with the hope that this time his studies would not be interrupted. in Innsbruck he occupied the post of Secretary of the Ukrainian committee, took a very active part in the Ukrainian Medical Society, sang in the students' choir and, later was the Ukrainian representative for the provinces of Tyrol and Forarlberg. In March of 1951, his wife Irena died of complications following gallbladder surgery.

In early 1952 he and Walter immigrated to Canada arriving here on Feb. 8. His second wife Liselotte (nee Frapporti), whom he married before departure, came to Canada six months later and became his true partner in life, supporting him in all his endeavors to the very end. Here they had two children — son Melety and daughter Iryna. After two years he returned to Innsbruck to complete his studies and, in May 1954 he obtained his medical degree. He then returned to Canada, passed the qualifying exams, interned for two years at the Edmonton General Hospital and opened a highly successful medical practice.

From the very beginning of his life in Canada he was actively involved in the Ukrainian community and became one of its leaders. Here are some of his activities:

For two terms he was President of the Ukrainian National Federation in Edmonton.

Also for two years he served as President of the Ukrainian Canadian Committee (now Congress), Edmonton Branch.

Dr. Snihurowych was active in the World Congress of Free Ukrainians, a key organizer of all the Edmonton visits of Patriarch Slipyj, a founding member of the Ukrainian Senior Citizens Home of the Holy Eucharist Parish where he served as board chair for several years, a founding member of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, a leader in the Ukrainian Catholic Church (president of the Brotherhood of Ukrainian Catholics, locally and on the National level) and active in the Ukrainian Professional and Business Club of Edmonton.

He was a founder of St. Michael's Nursing Home, now St. Michael's Extended Care Centre Society, which was officially opened in 1984 and now includes a nursing home, an auxiliary hospital, the Millennium Pavilion Lodge and an extended care centre in Vegreville and Spruce Grove. He was board chairman from the beginning to 2003 when he stepped down to become chairman emeritus until last Friday. He passed away at the St. Michael's Nursing Home.

St. Michael's was an idea, a dream, a quest and a journey, started well over 35 years ago — championed by our friend, mentor and leader," said Stan Fisher, President and CEO of St. Michael's Health Group at the commemorative dinner following the internment at St, Michael's cemetery, June 3.

"In his passing, I believe that he felt he left St. Michael's with a strong Board, strong staff, strong volunteers, a proud community, a proud family, and many proud friends of the work he accomplished.

I know I was influenced by his approach to caring for those we serve, now and for the future, I also believe his leadership style, devotion to family, and ever constant vigilance will live on with all of us here today," he added

Dr. Snihurowych is survived by his loving wife Lisolotte, son Walter (Shawna), son Melety (JoAnne), daughter Irene Sieben (Leslie), grandchildren Michael (Vicky), Mark (Kristi), Melanie (Matt), Emily, Lara, Luke, Eric and Tristan, great-grandchildren Lorin, Lexi, Liam and Henry, brother Wiroslaw (Patricia), plus a large extended family.

Both the June 2 Prayer Service and the June 3 Divine Liturgy were held at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral. Very Reverend Michajlo Planchak officiated.

Speaker tells UCWLC 'Secrets of Joy in Living'

(UkrNews)—The first secret of finding joy in life is to choose happiness, said the guest speaker at the breakfast meeting of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada branch at St. Nicholas Parish in Edmonton, May 25.

The second is to remember you are precious, said Rosabelle Daugela, author of a book entitled 'Secrets of Joy in Living'.

Other secrets she mentioned are to take time to laugh, take time to play, remember that life is a celebration and to find ways to fill a hole in heart-

However, she added, "never be 100 % happy in this world It is part of the Divine plan that we will only

Rosabelle Daugela

experience ultimate joy when we are united with our Heavenly Father in the next world."

Daugela taught elementary, high school., and adult education for many years. When she became a widow in 1990, Daugela together with her son, took over the family agricultural equipment manufacturing business, but has since sold is and turned to writing.

She is now completing the first draft of her second book," Gifts from a Loving heart" .

The breakfast is an annual event during which the which the men of the parish prepare the meal for the women. It regularly falls on the annual UCWLC Day.

Celebrates 100 years

Members of St. Nicholas Parish congratulated Pauline Kachman on her 100th birthday during the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada Day at the parish, May 24. Kachman, who turned 100 on May 4, was born in Vegreville in 1908 to Ukrainian immigrant parents. She now lives in Ottewell Lodge. Above. Kachman is presented flowers by Parish Council President Russ Cherwak.

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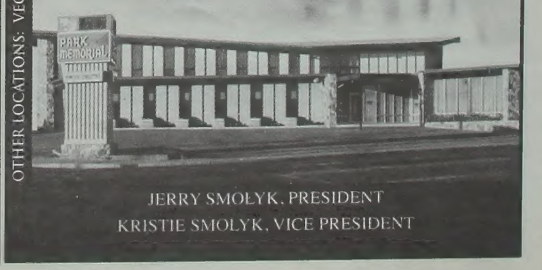

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Ukrainian Olympic gold medallist Shakhlin dies

Boris Shakhlin, who won a record six individual Olympic gymnastics men's gold medals, died late on May 30at the age of 76, reported Reuters citing the Ukrainian Olympic Committee.

Shakhlin collected 13 medals for the Soviet Union at three Olympics, including the all-around men's gold at the 1960 Rome Games.

"This is an irreplaceable loss for the world Olympic movement... Shakhlin developed the sport on a world level and for Ukraine," Olympic Committee president Sergei Bubka told Reuters. "He was a legendary person and what's important is he was able to lead a normal life after becoming an athlete."

Shakhlin, who was born in the Russian west Siberian town of Ishim on Jan. 27, 1932, moved to Ukraine in the early 1950s.

He is survived by his wife Larisa, a former gymnast, their daughter and a granddaughter.

Ivanchuk wins title

(The Hindu)—Ukraine's Vassily Ivanchuk dethroned Viswanathan Anand 2.5-1.5 to win the Leon rapid chess title in Leon, Spain on June 1.

The end to this four-game final was abrupt as Anand blundered in the fourth game and resigned after 16 moves. This was also the first time when Anand, who was looking for his fourth straight title, did not win at this Spanish venue.

Anand lost the first game with white pieces in 40 moves of Sicilian Scheveningen but bounced right back to win the second in Sicilian Najdorf in just 26 moves.

The third game, where Anand played white, was drawn after 56 moves. The sudden end in the fourth game was a result of Anand's move transposition that led to an immediate loss of material. Anand chose not to continue.

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Yushchenko demands fast action on Euro 2012

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko on June 10 ordered senior officials to produce clear solutions to issues casting a shadow over plans to co-host the 2012 European soccer championship, reports Reuters.

The president, who played a key role in helping Ukraine and neighbouring Poland win the bid to stage the competition, has expressed increasing alarm in recent weeks about delays in preparing for the event.

In a letter to Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, he gave the Euro 2012 organising committee until June 18 to resolve issues including preparation of legislation, cooperation with Polish officials, road upgrades and improved conditions for investors.

Also included on the list was "the settling of all contradictions" regarding reconstruction of Kyiv's Olympic stadium, a longstanding issue which has threatened to disrupt plans to hold the final in the 84,000-seat facility.

"The president pointed out that a key element in successfully preparing and staging Euro-2012 in Ukraine is bringing our system of organisation with the demands of UEFA," Yushchenko said in the letter.

He said clear replies to outstanding issues were needed for presentation to an UEFA Executive Committee meeting in Vienna on June 27 at the close of the 2008 European championship.

Sports

UEFA President Michel Platini in February deplored the pace of preparations and said progress in the months to come would be "decisive" to determine whether conditions could be met.

Platini is due to make a new visit to Ukraine on July 1-2 at the close of the current championship.

Both ex-communist countries face colossal tasks in upgrading infrastructure, particularly road and rail links and airports, rebuilding stadiums and building new hotels.

Rumours have periodically swept the Ukrainian capital that European soccer officials are drawing up contingency plans to stage the 2012 event elsewhere if demands are not met.

Yushchenko last month accused government officials of sabotaging the reconstruction of the Kyiv stadium and called on the prime minister — with whom he has been at odds for months — to ensure the project went ahead.

A Taiwanese firm won a tender in April to carry out reconstruction of the stadium, estimated by the government to cost $300 million. The project also involves dismantling a shopping centre adjacent to the stadium.

Scotland bid on hold

(STV Sports)—The Scottish Football Association will not hold a feasibility study into hosting Euro 2012 unless Ukraine and Poland lose the right to stage the finals.

SFA chief executive Gordon Smith, who has asked UEFA president Michel Platini to consider Scotland as an alternative host should concerns over stadia and infrastructure not be met by the co-hosts, will now await the outcome of the Frenchman's visit to eastern Europe early next month.

"The chronology of it now would be that Poland and Ukraine have to be rejected, that has to happen first," Smith said.

"Then they have to say it's open to new applications. We would then get a feasibility study done.

"If that worked out to be positive, we would hope our application would be viewed by UEFA.

"That's the basic four steps and there is nothing else. There are no background negotiations going on with UEFA, they have not been in touch with us.

"I just happened to have a discussion with Michel Platini and he told me that Ukraine and Poland were going to be audited again in the summer.

"Even at that we would do a feasibility study in terms of whether we are capable and what the cost would be of staging it, because we have a whole load of stadium reconstructions to do and that's only part of where the costs come in.

"We have only got three football stadiums in Scotland that comply with the UEFA regulations and they are all in Glasgow.

"The feasibility study has not been put in place because it costs money and there is no point if they were to turn round and say Ukraine and Poland are getting it."

Sweden loses last warm-up to Ukraine

Reserve goalkeeper Rami Shaaban gave up a late goal to Sergiy Nazarenko on June 1 for Sweden to lose its last warm-up game 1-0 to Ukraine before the European Championship. Nazarenko, left unmarked outside the box, sent a dipping shot past Shaaban in the 82nd minute, reports The Associated Press.

Shaaban, who replaced Andreas Isaksson at halftime, only got a piece of his left glove on the hard shot from about 30 meters.

A minute after Nazarenko's goal, Yevgeny Selenznev nearly made it 2-0 when his shot just missed Shaaban's left post.

Sweden dominated play in the first half, but could not capitalize on its scoring chances.

Midfielder Kim Kallstrom twice shot over the crossbar, with his curling shot in the 26th minute just missing goalkeeper Andrei Piatov's top corner.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic had the best opportunity for Sweden soon after, but Piatov saved the Inter Milan striker's low close-range shot with his left foot. Sebastian Larsson set up the chance with a nice pass to Ibrahimovic, who was unmarked inside the box.

"Too bad I didn't score on that chance," Ibrahimovic said. "Losing the game was not a big deal. What counts is the European Championship. This result does not matter. We played well in the first half. It worked well between me and 'Henke (Larsson).'"

Striker Vladimir Gomenyuk came close for Ukraine in the 40th, but his long-range shot just missed Isaksson's left post.

Neither team created any scoring chances in the second half until Ukraine's late efforts.

Fredrik Ljungberg, who missed Sweden's 1-0 friendly win over Slovenia the previous week after cracking a rib during a match for West Ham a month ago, came on for Larsson at the start of the second half but made little impact in midfield.

"A warm-up game is always difficult," said Ljungberg, who is Sweden captain. "Ukraine is a good team and they played well. If we had capitalized on our (first-half) chances, the game would have been over. For long spells, we showed that we can play well. But we have to peak in 10 days."

Ibrahimovic, who injured his left knee in late March before returning to clinch the Serie A title for Inter with two goals in the final round, was replaced by Johan Elmander early in the second half to continue his scoring drought with the national team.

"I didn't feel any pain," Ibrahimovic said of his knee. "I'm not worried."

Later, Elmander limped off the field and was replaced by Marcus Allback up front.

Henrik Larsson played the entire match and had one of Sweden's few scoring chances in the second half. With five minutes left, the veteran striker back-heeled the ball in front of goal but it went straight to Piatov.

Sweden will play Greece, Russia and Spain in Group D at this month's Euro 2008 in Austria and Switzerland. The Swedes open against defending champion Greece on June 10.

Ukraine failed to advance to Euro 2008 after being in the same qualifying group as Italy and France.

Ukrainians defeat Scotland women

(BBC News)—Scotland's bid to reach the European Women's (Soccer) Championship ended with defeat to Ukraine at McDiarmid Park, June 1.

The home team needed a win to have a chance of reaching the play-offs but were undone by a goal after just nine minutes from Daria Apanashchenko.

Scotland saw a lot of the ball but could not break down the well-organised visitors, who are now level on points with Group 5 leaders Denmark.

The Scots are eight points behind and have played two more matches.

Prior to the match in Perth, presentations were made to Shelley Kerr, Suzanne Grant and Meggan Sneddon to mark them reaching 50 caps.

Will Tymoshenko obey National Security Council?

By Pavel Korduban

(Jamestown Foundation)—The government of Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko will have to revise its decision to banish the U.S. company Vanco from the oil and gas fields in the Ukrainian part of the Black Sea. The Ukrainian Prosecutor-General's Office (GPU) has ordered the government to restore Vanco's license to develop the fields, and the National Security and Defense Council called on the cabinet to repeal its order annulling the production-sharing agreement with Vanco. Tymoshenko insists, however, that the deal with Vanco was not transparent.

On April 25 the Environment Ministry revoked the license to develop the Black Sea oil and gas fields that was issued in December 2007 to Vanco Prykerchenska, a subsidiary of the U.S. company Vanco Energy. Tymoshenko accused President Viktor Yushchenko of lobbying for Vanco, but Yushchenko denied the accusation and called on Tymoshenko to review her decision on Vanco. She disobeyed, however, saying that the conditions of a production sharing deal concluded in October 2007 did not suit the government. She also expressed strong doubts about the ownership structure of Vanco Prykerchenska, a subsidiary of Vanco, which received the license to work in the Black Sea. Vanco threatened to sue Ukraine in international courts.

The GPU appealed on May 17 against the Environment Ministry's revocation of Vanco Prykerchenska's license. This means that the Ministry has to repeal its decision. This, however, has not happened to date. On the contrary, on May 21 the Tymoshenko government unilaterally terminated the production sharing deal with Vanco. Tymoshenko said that her government would defeat "any kamikaze who sues" in international courts. First Deputy Prime Minister Oleksandr Turchynov denounced the "attempts to protect Vanco using the GPU." He also said, "I hope that the United States will investigate the corrupt scheme which was used to force a U.S. company to appear in the role of mediator, covering shadowy economic interests."

Turchynov's strong words failed to impress U.S. Ambassador William Taylor, who on the same day expressed his disappointment over the government's decision. Taylor noted that the Ukrainian government should respect contracts and suggested that it launch a dialogue with Vanco.

Tymoshenko, speaking on a talk show on Ukraina TV on May 29, insisted that the deal with Vanco was not transparent. She said that two Ukrainian business tycoons and certain officials, rather than Vanco Energy, were behind Vanco Prykerchenska. "One of the companies behind the Black Sea deal, I think, belongs to Rinat Akhmetov," said Tymoshenko. "Another company belongs to Dmytro Firtash, the individual who brought RosUkrEnergo to Ukraine. Another company, 25 per cent [of it belongs to] unidentified Ukrainian officials at the very top. It is generally impossible to detect who is the founder here."

Earlier Vanco Energy had said that it had three partners in Vanco Prykerchenska: DTEK Shadowlight Investments linked to Russian businessman Yevgeny Novitsky, and the Austrian-registered Integrum Technologies. DTEK is controlled by Akhmetov, Ukraine's richest businessman and one of the leaders of the Party of Regions (PRU), which is in opposition to Tymoshenko. Tymoshenko apparently believes that Firtash is behind Integrum Technologies. Firtash is the co-owner, jointly with Gazprom, of RosUkrEnergo, a company from which Ukraine has been buying Russian and Central Asian gas since 2006. Tymoshenko unsuccessfully tried to banish RosUkrEnergo from the market early this year.

Firtash and his Group DF issued a statement on June 2 saying that Firtash had no links whatsoever to either Vanco Prykerchenska or Integrum Technologies or any other company affiliated with Vanco. Group DF Chief Executive Robert Shetler-Jones said that Tymoshenko should stop making "groundless" statements about Firtash's connections to Vanco.

Tymoshenko also complained on May 29 that the National Security and Defense Council (SNBO) threatened that she and Environment Minister Heorhy Filipchuk would be held criminally liable for abolishing the deal with Vanco. On May 30 the SNBO advised Yushchenko to order the government to rescind the decision on Vanco.

SNBO Secretary Raisa Bohatyryova said that an expert group that was set up by Yushchenko's decree of May 20 to check the Vanco deal established that Vanco had won the tender in 2006 legally and that it was prepared to fulfill its contractual obligations. Vanco Energy hailed the SNBO's decision and said that it was ready for talks with Tymoshenko.

The SNBO is chaired by Yushchenko, and its decisions are binding according to the Ukrainian constitution. Tymoshenko is a member of the SNBO, but her team on this body is outnumbered by Yushchenko's people. Bohatyryova is a member of the PRU. It is believed that she belongs to the "business wing" of the party, whose informal leader is none other than Rinat Akhmetov. This wing is more prone to compromise with Yushchenko than PRU leader and former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych. Tymoshenko suspects that Yushchenko plans a new ruling coalition with the PRU, in which there will be no place for her party.

Business

Government begins consultations with Vanco

(Ukrainian Journal)—The Ukrainian government started consultations with U.S. oil company Vanco Energy weeks after canceling its offshore oil extraction license and the production sharing agreement, a Vanco official said June 6.

Gene Van Dyke, Vanco's founder and chairman, met Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko late June 4 for the first time since the government had cancelled the company's license and PSA last month.

President: Stop playing with hryvnia rate

(Ukrainian Journal)—The National Bank of Ukraine has been under political pressure to sharply appreciate the hryvnia against the U.S. dollar as a measure to fight inflation, President Viktor Yushchenko said May 30.

Yushchenko said the NBU should "urgently stop playing with the exchange rate," insisting that high inflation was caused by rampant social payments this year, not by the central bank's monetary policy.

"I have a favor to ask of you," Yushchenko told Volodymyr Stelmakh, the governor of the NBU, at a meeting of the National Security and Defence Council. "Do not give in to that pressure and to that demagoguery that currently exists around the NBU."

The comment suggests the appreciation of the hryvnia by 4% against the dollar overnight on May 21 may have been politically motivated, something NBU officials have so far been denying.

Prime Minister Julia Tymoshenko has been persistently calling for the appreciation of the hryvnia in response to high inflation, which exceeded 30% if measured between April and April 2007.

Tymoshenko's argument was that the NBU's purchasing of U.S. dollars on the forex market has been steadily increasing supply of hryvnias in the economy to the level that it has been triggering consumer price hike.

But Yushchenko, himself a former long-term governor of the NBU, said the argument was misleading. He said those were not the monetary factors that had caused the skyrocketing inflation this year, but rampant social spending.

The response by appreciating the hryvnia would indeed reduce the amount of local currency injected into the economy, but Yushchenko said this may actually boomerang and hit the economy hard.

"I am just warning that the measures that are being implemented to reduce the money supply lead only to one thing," Yushchenko said. "Each week the national economy gets less and less resources for its growth."

Yushchenko has long been suggesting that Tymoshenko's populist promise to pay out 120 billion hryvnias in frozen Soviet-era bank deposits within the next two years was the main cause behind the inflation.

That's why the response to the problem must come from reducing budget spending, Yushchenko has insisted, not from sharply appreciating the hryvnia.

Tymoshenko, as well as Stelmakh, are members of the National Security and Defence Council, the country's top security body.

Yushchenko did not directly mention Tymoshenko, but said "those who have listened" his address must read the message "between the lines."

Meanwhile, an evidence has recently emerged that may well highlight the political pressure on the NBU.

On May 20, a day before the NBU moved to appreciate the hryvnia, a bill had been submitted to Parliament seeking to de-facto eliminate independence of the NBU.

The bill, drafted by Tymoshenko lawmakers, seeks to let the Cabinet of Ministers, as opposed to the NBU, to define the country's foreign exchange rate policy.

Stelmakh on May 30 criticized the bill, calling it "dilettantism" and "amateurishness."

"You can submit whatever you want," Stelmakh said at a press conference. "But there is the president who knows these issues."

AECL to develop CANDU technology in Ukraine

(UkrNews)—The Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) on May 28 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ukraine's Ministry of Fuels and Energy to assist the Ukrainian government in improving its energy and ecological security through the development of CANDU nuclear technology.

The MOU serves as a framework for collaboration on the technical and economic feasibility of a CANDU nuclear power program in Ukraine, and to set out the process for commercial implementation. The feasibility study will be conducted jointly by AECL and the Ukrainian government and is to be completed within four months of the signing.

"We are extremely pleased to be entering into an understanding with Ukraine and to have the opportunity to play a key role in strengthening Ukraine's nuclear technology program," said Dr. Ken Petrunik, AECL's President, CANDU Reactor Division. "This is an important opportunity for both countries as it will define the path for significant co-operation on Canadian CANDU reactor technology for Ukraine."

Ukraine has shown a strong interest in CANDU features related to the use of natural uranium. The CANDU design also offers synergies with the existing Ukrainian VVER reactors by offering the potential of burning uranium recovered from VVER spent fuel. This "recovered uranium" has fissile content similar to natural uranium, which can best be utilized in a CANDU reactor.

Dr. Petrunik added, "AECL's on-time, on-budget track record is highly-regarded by international markets and that CANDU reactor technology is an excellent choice for additional clean, safe and reliable power."

Ukraine's interest in CANDU technology broadens AECL's discussions in Eastern Europe as Lithuania, Romania and Turkey are also considering the option of CANDU nuclear technology development.

Azerbaijani oil to reach Odesa pipeline July 1

(Ukrainian Journal)—A first consignment of oil is to be pumped through the Odesa-Brody oil pipeline from Azerbaijan to the Czech Republic, Serhiy Korsunsky, director of the economic cooperation department at the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, said at a CIS Oil and Gas summit in Paris, May 30. "By July 1, direct pumping should start. All conditions have been made at the governmental level. It only depends on the companies," he said. He said that the first 40,000 ton consignment of oil would be shipped to the Czech Republic's Kralupy refinery through Slovakia.

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Saskatoon – Chernivtsi Obmin (Exchange) 2008

By Janelle Dobrowney, Rhianna Kaminski, John Lozinsky, Hafon Pshebylo and Jordan Welbourne

Beginning in 1992, the Bilingual Ukrainian Program at E. D. Feehan Catholic High School has been involved with student exchange trips with Saskatoon's sister city of Chernivtsi. For the last four trips, exchanges were made with students from Lyceum No. 2 — a School of Law & Philosophy, with Andrij Sigitov, principal. Saskatoon students were partner-ed with Chernivtsi students of similar age and stayed at their exchange partners' homes. This year the group included students from Bethlehem Catholic High school as well. The group of five students had the opportunity to travel to Ukraine from March 13 to April 3.

In preparations for the trip there were various fundraisers, such as working bingos, a Vare-nyky Night, a magazine fund-raiser, and concessions for dances in both schools.

After twelve hours of flying, several hours of wait time, and yet another twelve hours of driving from Kyiv, to our destination city of Chernivtsi, we arrived thoroughly exhausted.

Over the next few days, we went to the lyceum to attend classes with our partners and we also made a lot of new friends and renewed acquaintance with former exchange students we met while they were in Saskatoon. At the lyceum, we attended classes to experience their school day, but of course, most often the class attention was turned on the Canadian guest and question and answer time took over.

At the end of our first full day in Chernivtsi, we went to a discotheque. It was the grand opening, so you can imagine that there were many people. We discovered that techno music is really popular in Ukraine. It was an interesting experience.

In Chernivtsi we met with the city administration as well as the Deputy Head of State. During the visits we were told a bit of the history of the city and region and some of the developmental plans for the city.

One weekend we stayed at a bed and breakfast type resort in the Carpathian Mountains and managed a 10 kilometer hike, some horseback riding, walking along the Cheremosh and exploring the Karpaty. We also had a day trip from Chernivtsi was to visit the fortresses at Kamyanetsk-Podilsk and Khotyn.

We were also able to visit the apartment/museum of songwriter Volodymyr Ivasiuk. To be able to see the table at which he sat and to listen to Chervona Ruta in the living room he once occupied, one could not help but sing along and feel the emotion of the song.

From, Chernivtsi we went with our exchange students to Lviv, where we saw actual street cars, not just the trolley buses of Chernivtsi.

An interesting visit was to St. George's Cathedral during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. In the church, we were packed together like sardines in a can and standing. We were surprised at the fact that so many people were there, and how beautiful the singing of the choir sounded.

After three days in Lviv, we traveled by train to Kyiv. There, we visited many of the churches along the riverbank of the Dnipro River. We visited Pecherska Lavra, and Sofiskyj Sobor, among other churches. We saw the Holodomor memorial where the previous day President George Bush had laid flowers. In the Museum of Historical Treasures of Ukraine we saw historic artifacts that we had previously seen only pictures of, and it was very intriguing to see what was worn as jewelry.

Perhaps the most valuable aspects of the Ukraine Exchange 2008 trip were seeing Ukrainian people in their day to day lives and the relationships the Canadian Exchange students built with their exchange partners. Chernivtsi, being a western Ukrainian City, maintains Ukrainian culture, although there was definite Russian influence. For example, a vast majority of the high school-aged students (used the Russian language to converse between themselves, or even to select Russian words as slang. In Lviv, and Kyiv, the differences between the people were very evident. Chenivtsi seemed, to us, like an introverted version of Saskatoon, with strong international ties, and a lingering slight Russian influence. Lviv seemed to be the most purely Ukrainian City, and because of its proximity had some remnant Polish cultural aspects. Kyiv was the most beautiful city to look at, but the people were brisk, and very Rus-sified in mannerism and culture.

As we were on our journey back to Canada, we came to realize how fast the three weeks went by. In those three weeks, we developed our Ukrainian language and vocabulary, and friendships that will last a lifetime.

The Ukraine Exchange Program is one that not only encourages students to continue with Ukrainian language and history education, but is also a life changing experience. Having a new perspective and seeing how Ukraine lives and how she is a vibrant country definitely draws one to explore her even further and places her even deeper in our hearts.

The participants in this years exchange were: John Lozinsky — his exchange student is Pavlo Lehchilkin, Hafon Pshebylo — his exchange student is Maxim Nezboretsky, Jordan Welbourne — exchange student Oksana Konstantynuk, Janelle Dobrowney — Dianna Kratiuk, and Rhianna Kaminiski — Iryna Senyk, teacher Laurianne Gabruch and parent Roberta Welbourne.

Chernivtsi students welcome their Saskatoon counterparts.

Ukrainian Festival at Jean Vanier Catholic School

(JVS) — May 13 Ukrainian Bilingual students at Jean Vanier Catholic School in Sherwood Park hosted a Ukrainian Festival. Out of 370 elementary and junior high students in the school only 44 are in the Ukrainian Bilingual Program at Grade 7-9. The purpose of this event was to share the Ukrainian culture, food and traditions with the greater non-Ukrainian community.

"Morning activities of the Ukrainian Festival were set up in the school gymnasium and were geared towards the elementary students," said Vlodko Boychuk, a Ukrainian Bilingual teacher at Jean Vanier School. From 9:30 am to 11:30 am the students visited different stations to experience and learn more about traditional and modern-day Ukrainian culture. These stations included a Colouring Corner, Ukrainian Dancing and Singing, Name Writing, Ukrainian Cultural Displays, Ukrainian Sport Heros and Ukrainian Music Videos. "We were definitely looking forward to hosting this Festival, because it gave us a hands-on experience on various cultural activities," said Melanie Bahniuk, a Grade 8 Ukrainian student.

During lunch hour students and staff of Jean Vanier Catholic School enjoyed a Ukrainian Hot Lunch of *Pyrohy* (boiled dumplings) and *Kovbasa* (sausage). "Finally, I have a chance to have for lunch a ton of my favourite Ukrainian *pyrohy* and *kovbasa*," exclaimed Brandon Bori, a non-Ukrainian student from Grade 4. Ukrainian Hot Lunch was organized by members of Bilingual Ukrainian Catholic Parents Society (BUCPS), a parent organization.

At 1:00 pm the entire school was entertained to a Ukrainian Fashion Show and Concert. The audiences enjoyed seeing the traditional and modern costumes from various regions of Ukraine. The concert portion of the show included Ukrainian dancing, singing and playing on traditional musical instruments, *Tsymbaly* (dulcimer) and *Bandura*. Students of Ukrainian Grade 6 class and *"Molodtsi"* Bandura Ensemble from Father Kenneth Kearns Catholic School were also performing at the festival.

"This Ukrainian Festival gave us an opportunity to show our Ukrainian pride, as well as to educate the wider community of a rich and ever-evolving Ukrainian culture," said Lesia Pohoreski, a Ukrainian Bilingual teacher at Jean Vanier Catholic School.

In the evening, Ukrainian Festival was opened to the community. Everyone had an opportunity to come and check out the cultural displays created by the Junior High students. Finally, at 7:00 pm there was a screening of Shrek 3 in Ukrainian with English subtitles.

Ukrainian Bilingual students perform the "JV Hopak" at the festival.

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